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BEREAVEMENT**
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Fundraiser of the Year helped collect £250,000 BARNARDO'S TOP FUNDRAISER LIZ IS STEPPING DOWN AFTER 40 YEARS



Liz Singer with Wynne Evans, opera singer.
Photograph courtesy of Mandy Thomas photography.

A PORTHCAWL woman who has raised more than £250,000 for Barnardo's Cymru over 40 years, has been named 'Fundraiser of the Year'.

The awards, run in conjunction with Barnardo's, recognise people who make an exceptional effort to help children, young people and families.

Liz, whose first fundraising venture was a jumble sale, has organised tugs of war right up to a large scale 150th anniversary concert at Cardiff's St David's Hall, compered by tenor Wynne Evans.

Her first jumble sale was held in Porthcawl by eight young mums, who

formed a Barnardo's Helpers' Group (BHG) in 1975. It was meant to be a one day event but they had so many donations that it ran over three days.

Liz said: "It raised about £200, which was a lot of money then. We started a tradition of May Mornings, when we could sell plants and cakes and hold a raffle and it just grew from there. We wanted the group to be fun and for people to really enjoy the events and that's what happened. When we celebrated our 25th year in 2000 we organised a New York shopping trip. More than 70 of us went and we raised around £4,000."

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AFTER attacking a girlfriend, a young man set fire to the caravan they occupied at a Trecco Bay site, Cardiff Crown Court has heard, writes AJ SICLUNA.

When the Fire Service arrived, they found all the gas taps had been turned on.

Shortly before, Ricky Robinson (22) left the caravan after saying "Run, it's going to go up."

Robinson, of Gendros, Swansea, admitted arson, being reckless as to whether life would be endangered, and causing actual bodily harm.

Prosecutor Harry Baker said Robinson had a girlfriend, Roseanne Price, spending the weekend in the caravan at Trecco Bay, Porthcawl.

She discovered text messages on his phone from another woman.

"There was an argument and she said she was going home."

Soon afterwards, said Mr Baker, the argument continued, and Robinson threw a television set at her: "He attacked her with a coffee table and threw a kettle containing hot water at her. He punched her and hit her with a fire extinguisher, before poking a bread knife in her stomach."

She left the caravan, after which Robinson started a fire in the kitchen causing damage of £1,440.

He told security staff at the site: "It was not me, it must have been the toaster."

His counsel, Paul Hobson, said: "This man behaved disgracefully but he faces many medical challenges, but luckily, his family supports him."

Sentencing him to 16 months' imprisonment, suspended for two years, Judge David Wyn Morgan said that in the normal course of events, he would have been sent to prison, but, he said, Robinson had severe difficulties.

The judge made a restraining order preventing him from contacting Ms Price.

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JOIN IN THE BIG DEBATE ON IMMIGRATION ISSUE

AN influential House of Commons committee plans to tour the country to find out people's views on the question of immigration.

The Home Affairs Committee announced last week that it intends to hold public meetings in all regions of the UK.

Chairwoman Yvette Cooper MP stated: "We want to hear people's views, both about immigration, and about how they believe that common ground can be found to stop this issue dividing the country".

The GEM, too, would like to hear your views on a controversial subject that has become central to the whole Brexit debate.

Perhaps you believe immigration has been a positive economic force and we need more of

it? Some people advocate open borders, arguing that we should let in everyone who needs humanitarian or economic assistance.

Others, though, believe immigration is now running out of control and that the numbers are such that services and infrastructure are being stretched to breaking point.

It has been claimed that some groups fail to integrate and do not respect core British traditions and values, which could lead to the danger of social upheaval in the future.

Perhaps you have a totally different slant on this emotive topic? Let us know what you think.

• Whatever your view, please contact: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk or write to The Glamorgan GEM, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL marked 'IMMIGRATION DEBATE'

OLDCASTLE PRIMARY WINS BEST TREE AWARD!

OLDCASTLE

Primary School has won the best tree award in the Nolton Church Christmas tree festival this year!

The tree has been on display in Nolton church, in Bridgend, since the beginning of December and visitors to the church have been voting for their favourite tree.

Oldcastle Primary School won both the children and adult vote for best educational establishment. The tree had a theme of "Sticking Together" and promoted the school's vision – to 'inspire, motivate and educate'. All children in the school were challenged to produce a decoration, based around the theme and using recyclable materials.

"We are delighted to have won both the children and adult vote for best educational tree. The children work hard, producing hand crafted decorations for the tree and this year we were inundated with decorations," said teacher Janine Wright.



Proudly showing the certificates from the church are Cerys, Tomos and Ava from year-4.

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'It's time for action over Pencoed's traffic problems'

IT is with concern that I write this letter regarding the ongoing serious traffic problems that the town of Pencoed suffers from, and the knock-on effect it has on the local bus routes in the area.

Vehicles parked at road junctions and on pavements in all parts of the town. Problems that the authorities seem to ignore at the cost of inconvenience to the local taxpayers.

The bus services have been stopped in the Mervyn Way, area of Pencoed. Now Kennedy Drive, looks like being taken off route – again, due to traffic parking problems.

Every day of the week, the junction of Kennedy Drive and Deri Avenue, Pencoed, is the subject of inconsiderate parking. On both sides of Kennedy Drive, at the T-junction with Deri Avenue, you will observe vehicles parked contrary to the Highway Code; also on Deri Avenue, on the road opposite Kennedy Drive, causing major problems for the local bus service, which at times has had problems getting around the corner.

We are aware that the bus company are monitoring the situation. Their answer to the same problem at Mervyn Way, was to stop the bus running to the area. People now have to walk to Kennedy Drive to catch a bus; no mean feat for the elderly or disabled.

Why should the residents, who rely on the bus service in the area, suffer the loss of a regular transport service, due to inconsiderate drivers parking on corners and pavements? And more to the point, lack of any action by the authorities to remedy the problem.

The Highway Code is quite clear on the subject of parking – Quote Section 242: You must not leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the road. Road Traffic Act 1988 sec22 & Cur Reg. 103

Quote Section 243: Opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction.

Quote Section 244: You must not park partially or wholly on the pavement, unless signs permit it.

Parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs, or with impairments and with prams or pushchairs.

Surely one of the answers to the problems, from BCBC would be to put down yellow lines on the corners of roads where problems occur, ie opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction?

Secondly, perhaps the police could be more proactive, read the relevant sections of the Highway Code, and start booking offenders.

S Powell, Pencoed.

CUBS CELEBRATE CENTENARY YEAR

THIS year is Cubsc100, the centenary of the Cub Scout movement, and I'm lucky and proud to be ambassador for their monumental birthday party.

December 16 is the 100th birthday and like the local Cubs, I will be renewing my Cub Scout promise.

It's been an incredible year so far, with trips, fundays and camp outs, but the best is yet to come with Cubs 100 birthday parties taking place across the country this week.

For 100 years, Cub Scouts have been helping in their communities and this year is no different. Through our 'A Million Hands' project, Cubs

have been helping to make their community a better place to live and work.

I would also like to shout out to the volunteers in Barry for their dedication each week to giving Cubs the chance to experience big adventures and take part in activities that could be life-changing. Volunteers – we salute you!

During this special week, I would just like to say a big happy birthday to Cubs past and present, as we look forward to another 100 years of endeavour, learning new skills, having fun and making lifelong friends. Steve Backshall, Cubsc100 Ambassador; Andrew Thorp, The Scout Association.

TV series good for local economy?

I READ with interest the recent GEM article about Pencoed Dragon filming a US TV series on the early life of William Shakespeare.

Your article stated that it will generate £18 million into the local economy; this I would question.

I would also ask what amount the Welsh Assembly has invested and question if film and TV production is the most secure way of investing public money?

If my memory serves me correctly, the original investors of this studio lost their money – one being Richard Attenborough.

Finally, who now owns the studio? How many people have heard of or seen the "high profile productions", such as Da Vinci's Demons, The Bastard Executioner or The Collection. Barry Hoey, Brocstale.

'Alcohol-related attacks a disgrace' – says Ogmores MP

OGMORE MP Chris Elmore has met paramedics and police officers in Parliament to hear about the dangers and difficulties of dealing with alcohol related incidents.

The event, organised by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Alcohol Harm, launched a new report investigating this issue, which took evidence from police officers, fire crew and paramedics.

Over 50 per cent of police officers report alcohol related incidents as making up the majority of their workload a report found. Shockingly 59 per cent of female police officers and 33 per cent of male officers reported sexual assault or harassment while on duty.

The MPs were also told that over 70 per cent of all attendances at A&E departments are alcohol-related at weekends, and that on , alcohol related fires cost almost five times as much as other fires, and are more likely to involve fatalities.

Chris Elmore commented: "I was shocked to hear about the difficulties and dangers which emergency service staff have to deal with when dealing with alcohol related incidents. The fact that over 80 per cent of police officers had been assaulted by people who had been



drinking is totally unacceptable, and A&E doctors should not face intimidation and violence at work when they are trying to help people. "One straightforward thing the Government could do to help emergency staff is to lower the drink-driving limit. Lowering it to 50mg would save at least 10 per cent of the current drink driving fatalities, and free up the emergency service to deal with other issues. There is universal support for it amongst road safety groups, and 77 per cent of the public also support the change."

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 22)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
15 Thur	06.59	10.5	19.28	10.4
16 Fri	07.47	10.5	20.14	10.3
17 Sat	08.37	10.2	20.59	10.0
18 Sun	09.19	9.8	21.43	9.5
19 Mon	10.06	9.3	22.29	8.9
20 Tues	10.51	8.7	23.19	8.4
21 Wed	11.45	8.3		
22 Thur	00.17	8.0	12.47	7.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

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North Cornelly man jailed for supplying drugs

A NORTH Cornelly man has been jailed for 10 months at Cardiff Crown Court.

Shane Lovett (25) was said by judge Stephen Hopkins QC to have a "dreadful record" which covered the whole gamut of criminal activity.

Lovett, of Longmeadow, North Cornelly, admitted possessing cannabis with intent to supply.

Prosecutor Jason Howells said that when the police searched Lovett's home, they found 794 grammes of cannabis in resin and bush form with a potential value of £6,970. Also recovered, said Mr Howells, was £850 in cash.

He said the search took place at 9.20am on March 31.

Drugs were found in the kitchen. There were also drugs in the bedroom, plus the cash.

by AJ SICLUNA

Hidden in a lawnmower outside was yet more cannabis.

Lovett was interviewed by the police for an hour and told them he had learning difficulties, was a heavy cannabis user, and that all the drugs were for personal use.

The cash they recovered, he said, belonged to his brother and he was looking after it.

"He denied being involved in the supply of cannabis."

Said Mr Howells: "All the evidence supports that he was a dealer."

He was said to have previous convictions for assault, causing damage, public order offences, shoplifting, possessing an offensive weapon, and for possessing cannabis.

His solicitor, Robert Chudleigh, said: "He has been using cannabis

since the age of 15. Sadly, he had difficulty in dealing with stressful situations. In 2004, his stepfather died and it hit him hard."

Mr Chudleigh said Lovett took a "complex combination of medication" to keep him on an even keel.

He said he was remorseful and had greatly reduced his use of cannabis.

"It is a small step in the right direction," he added.

Judge Hopkins said. "The amount of cannabis was quite considerable and when interviewed, he lied from beginning to end."

"You said you believe the cannabis was worth only £500 and that you didn't class cannabis as a drug. Clearly, this case passes the custody threshold."

Lovett was also ordered to pay a criminal surcharge of £100.



The Banana Moon nursery in Brackla has achieved a Gold Plus Healthy Snack award. Staff are pictured here with Caroline Stradling (centre), childcare development officer for the Bridgend County Borough Council.

BRACKLA NURSERY WINS HEALTHY SNACK AWARD

ONE of Bridgend county borough's newest nurseries has already picked up an award for its outstanding efforts in giving children a healthy start to life.

The Banana Moon nursery in Brackla won the 'Gold Plus Healthy Snack' award for its healthy snacks and drinks, a suitable eating environment,

and to follow appropriate hygiene standards.

The award has been developed locally in a multi-agency partnership with representatives from BCBC, Public Health Wales, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, City and County of Swansea, Design to Smile and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

First Minister opens £14m anaerobic digestion plant



A £14 MILLION anaerobic digestion (AD) plant, the largest in Wales, was officially opened on December 2 by Bridgend AM Carwyn Jones.

Developed by Agrivert, one of the UK's leading AD specialists, it takes food waste from Welsh homes and businesses and converts it into energy.

Located at Parc Stormy near Bridgend, it is the company's first foothold in Wales and is set to process around 48,000 tonnes of organic waste per year, generating 3mW of electricity – enough to supply over 5,900 homes.

The facility also produces valuable bio-fertiliser that can displace fossil fuel derived fertilisers on more than 3,000 acres of local farm land.

Some 40 jobs were created during the eight-month construction phase. Now with three full time staff located at the facility, up to 20 further jobs are planned. The opening is timely given that the Welsh Government has set local authorities the target of achieving 70 per cent recycling by 2025.

Once an aerodrome in World War II, Parc Stormy has since 2007 been transformed from a rundown brownfield site into a cluster of interconnected renewable technologies.

The arrival of Agrivert adds to the mix of 'green' technologies already in place, including a wind turbine, a field of solar panels, an 'eco-house' and a plant that converts

industrial waste into low-carbon cement.

There are plans to add a second wind turbine, a pioneering 10mW battery storage project as well as a hydrogen refuelling station.

The new Welsh Agrivert plant already provides food recycling services for local businesses, as well as for Ceredigion, Powys and Pembrokeshire Councils. It hopes to attract waste from other local authorities and businesses including food manufacturers and producers and waste collection companies.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Agrivert chief executive Alexander Maddan, said: "We are proud of this AD project and the increased accessibility to our industry-leading food waste recycling services it brings."

AM Carwyn Jones said: "I welcome Agrivert's investment in my constituency and I was very pleased to officially open their new anaerobic digestion plant, the largest in Wales, at Parc Stormy, Stormy Down. The presence of this facility will bring a number of benefits."

"By segregating food from general waste, large tonnages will avoid landfill, where it would generate greenhouse gas emissions. This facility is expected to process around 48,000 tonnes of organic waste per year and will generate electricity that will be exported to the National Grid."

Estyn report lavishes special praise on Ysgol y Deri facility

YSGOL Y DERI, the Vale's state of the art facility for educating children and young people with special educational needs, has received praise from the schools' inspectorate Estyn following its inspection.

Both the school's current performance and prospects for improvement were rated as 'good', the second highest scoring possible.

Estyn singled out the school's learning environment for particular praise.

The facility, which is part of the award-winning Penarth Learning Community, features modern accessible sports facilities.

The culture within the school was praised for being "highly-positive and inclusive."

The school's leadership was classed as 'excellent', with the headteacher and senior leadership team drawing praise for having "established a clear

vision for the newly created school that focuses on providing opportunities for all pupils to achieve their potential."

Headteacher Christopher Britten said: "We are delighted with this report. Estyn have recognised the tremendous work that everyone at the school does every day."

"The success of our pupils is celebrated and their fantastic achievements have been acknowledged."

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PORTHCAWL HONOURS SENIOR CITIZENS AT JENKIN HENRY TEA

Words and pictures by
MALCOLM NUGENT.

THE Jenkin Henry tea this year took place at the Pavilion Stage Door Suite, and was well attended by 80-plus-year-olds born in Porthcawl, together with former mayors and the present Mayor and Mayoress, Coun Rob and Mrs Ann Lee.

Entertainment was provided by Ceri Joseph from Porthcawl Museum with a slide show of photographs showing Porthcawl in earlier years, together with an interesting talk outlining the history of the town and its social and economic development.

Eighteen guests were invited this year and they enjoyed a range of refreshments, concluding with a gift from the town council and a memorial plaque. Those invited are the oldest residents of the town – and must have been born in Porthcawl.

Invited guests included: Mr Peter Henry, a descendant of the late Jenkin Henry; Mrs Mair Harrhy, the oldest guest at 97 years old; Miss Cecile Jones, Mrs Sarah Morgan, Mrs Joan Hughes, Ms Josephine Burrell, Mrs Valerie Thomas, Mrs Sylvia Thomas, Mrs Julia Morris, Ms Rose Power, Mr David Kingdom, Mrs Jean Rees, Mrs Carol Payne, Mr Dennis Power, Mr Alan Davies, Mrs Ruth Davies, Mrs Rosamond Cooper, Mrs Ann Owen.

Mair Harrhy, at 97, was the oldest of the guests. She is pictured with the Mayor and mayoress of Porthcawl



GARW'S GORDON SALUTES 'HOME GUARD'



John Laurie.



Clive Dunn.



John Le Mesurier



Arthur Lowe.

CELEBRATED local artist, Gordon Farmer, is such a dab hand at portraits that Max Boyce dubbed him 'The Picasso of the Garw Valley'.

In his latest works, he has saluted the actors in the classic BBC TV series *Dad's Army*.

The sit-com ran for nine series and 80 episodes. This year there was a film of *Dad's Army* which featured Toby Jones and Catherine Zeta Jones (not related!).

2016 was a very good year for WI

IT was another good year for Pencoed WI; we now have over 70 members and highlights of the year included a black and white dinner (posh frocks); a fish and chip supper with a quiz and games; a summer outing with wine tasting and lunch at Cwm Deri vineyard, a branch correspondent reports.

A Christmas carol celebration took place at St David's Church at which the children from Pencoed Primary school sang and there was a Christmas lunch at the Coed-Y-Mystwr hotel.

Throughout the year, we had eight speakers talking about a variety of subjects.

Our walking, book, craft and lunch clubs met every month and our theatre club saw three shows in Cardiff – Breakfast at Tiffany's,

Kiss Me Kate and *Guys and Dolls*.

Our new venture in 2016 was a monthly coffee morning held in Lilo's from 10am to 12 and it is always well attended.

We also entered events organised by Glamorgan Federation, such as the quiz, whist, darts and scrabble, the scrabble was won by Wendy from our WI members took part in the walks organised by Glamorgan federation.

These included the guided walk in Brecon; also two events at Margam Orangery and a day at Chepstow Races.

Hopefully, 2017 will see us maintain this standard; already a fashion show is being arranged and two theatre trips.

We meet at Pencoed welfare hall on the second Tuesday of the month from 1.45pm to 4.15pm.

Farmers' Market a moveable feast

THE Porthcawl Christmas Farmers' Market will move from its normal Saturday to Sunday, December 18 at the Griffin Park Community Hall in New Road, Porthcawl CF36 5DF from 9.30am to 12.30pm.

The previous market was very successful in attracting a lot of new customers and we were delighted that Carys was able to bring her harp along with the Cornelly Children's Choir to bring

some festive entertainment to the event.

They were fund raising for the 2017 Urdd Eisteddfod in Pencoed and the Market were pleased to be able to make a donation to this cause.

The next market will feature the usual regular producers and the Market Café will be open and you are welcome to call in for a cuppa. Pim Morgan will be at the Market cooking her tasty Thai food for consumption at the market or to take away.

MIKE PETT

Santa's in residence at the Maesteg council chamber!



SANTA arrived at the Maesteg Council Chambers, along with two of his elves and will be entertaining young visitors and their families from 10am to 6pm on the following days: Friday, December 16; Saturday, December 17; Monday, December 19; Tuesday, December 20 (cost £2 per child).

GLEEMEN SING FOR HOSPICE



THE Maesteg Gleemen have been sponsored by Specsavers to sing throughout south Wales – from Chepstow to Llanelli to raise money for the Ty Hafan Children's Hospice.

The Gleemen have sung at various locations since the beginning of October and will carry-on right up to Christmas.

Last week the Gleemen were snapped outside Specsavers in John Street, Porthcawl spreading their Christmas cheer for a very good cause; the Ty Hafan Children's hospice at Sully.

For the latest stories...

glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Deadline for survey on Welsh language

LOCAL people have until December 19 to take part in Bridgend County Borough Council's public consultation on Welsh medium education.

The online survey, which can be completed at www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation, will help the council to understand how satisfied residents are with the current provision and assess whether more needs to be done so that parents can choose a Welsh language education for future generations.

Coun Huw David, BCBC

Leader, said: "It is every parent's right to choose an education taught through the medium of Welsh for their children, and we want to gather views, to ensure that we can meet future demand.

"We are particularly interested in any current barriers that may be preventing parents from sending their children to a Welsh language school. For example, are the current schools too far from where you live? Or is there a lack of access to wrap-around childcare that prevents you from choosing a particular school?"

Soroptimists host Christmas service

ON Wednesday, December 8 Bridgend Soroptimists held their annual Christmas Service at the Princess of Wales Hospital chapel.

The service was conducted by Hospital Chaplain Rev Hilary Jardin.

Club members Sue Davies, Lily Laesser, Eurwen Richards and Dr April May Kitchener gave seasonal readings, and carols were sung by all attending.

Thanks are due to Lynda Edwards who played the organ.

Afterwards members and friends enjoyed refreshments and Christmas good wishes at the home of member Eurwen Richards.

EILEEN BAYLEY

'FINDING OUT WE HAD A NEW HOME WAS LIKE WINNING THE LOTTERY'



Students ask 'WHAT NEXT?'



Local year-10 pupils attended a Careers Wales 'What Next?' event in Merthyr on November 18. Pupils had the opportunity to find out about different courses and careers and participate in taster sessions, including bricklaying, hairdressing and animal care.

ABOVE:
Alan Morgan, managing director, Hafod Housing Association and Kelly Davies, rural housing enabler, Vale Council, recently gave members of the Community Council a tour of the new homes.



Emma with daughter Honey (3) – the family are thrilled with their new home.

A development of new homes in the rural village of Colwinston is helping to provide much-needed accommodation for local people.

Owned by Hafod Housing Association, the 16 homes are helping to meet high local demand for affordable homes both for rent and sale within this rural community.

They are available to people who have a local connection to the area in line with a policy developed in consultation with Hafod, the Vale Council and Colwinston Community Council. This gives priority to those who live, work or have family locally.

This has made a huge difference to personal trainer Emma Murphy and her three daughters. Previously renting privately she had experienced overcrowding, poor standards and had little stability due to short-term contracts.

High rents also meant she couldn't afford a home big enough for her family and her 17 and three-year-old daughters had to share a bedroom, which made studying difficult.

She said: "Finding out that we had a new

home with Hafod was like winning the lottery. It's going to make such a difference to me and my daughters.

"We now have stability and can really settle down, plus we're still close to family, school and work. It's lifted a huge weight off my shoulders."

Six homes are now occupied with a further 10 due for completion next spring, including three two-bedroom homes for low-cost sale.

Hafod Housing Association is based in the Vale and currently owns and manages over 700 homes in the county. Alan Morgan, managing director said: "Hafod enjoys a strong relationship with the Vale Council.

"This successful development has resulted from an effective and sustained partnership between the organisations.

"In this way, Hafod can play a major role in assisting the council to achieve its strategic aim of providing high quality, affordable homes for sale and rent."

Visit www.hafod.org.uk for further details.

'Tis the season to be jolly' for the Bridgend Young Farmers!



GLAMORGAN County YFC held its public speaking day on December 4 at Pendoylan School.

Seven teams from all around Glamorgan competed in a variety of public speaking competitions to test their oratory skills, reading accuracy and the way in which they engage their audience when delivering a speech or address.

Bridgend YFC had a super day, being placed in the three competitions they entered.

It was first place for their reading team of Tabitha Anthony, Cerian Troakes and Alice Rees.

There was a third place for the public speaking team of main speaker Tabitha Anthony, chairman Isabell Earnshaw and vote of thanks Emily Curnock – their chosen topic was the boisterous Bullingdon Club.

Jacob Anthony, chairman of Bridgend YFC, gained third place in the best senior member in Glamorgan.

Tabitha said she would like to convey a massive thank you to the trainers Enid Rees, Gwyneth Williams and Emma Anthony for giving up their valuable time to train the teams.

Tabitha was chosen by the judges to go forward to the All Wales level of the competition, much to the delight of her club. TA



'TEAM BRIDGEND' ANNOUNCED FOR MISS WALES 2017

THE two young women selected to represent Bridgend at the Miss Wales 2017 final have been announced.

Team Bridgend consists of Elle Morey, a 17-year-old sixth-form student from Porthcawl, and Hannah Williams, a 23-year-old buyer from Pencoed.

The two women are both in with a chance of being crowned Miss Bridgend 2017 and also Miss Wales 2017, at the Miss Wales final in April next year.

The three-day final involves an 'empowerment day' with the UK's leading youth life-coach, a charity ball and a catwalk show.

In the run-up to the final, the young women will be tasked with fundraising for the Miss World charity 'Beauty With A Purpose' which helps disadvantaged children worldwide.

They will also be given a series of challenges to help them develop confidence. Paula Abbandonato, from Cardiff events and PR company Vibe, the organiser of Miss Wales, said: "Every year we have an amazing line-up of young women at Miss Wales. The girls who make up Team Bridgend for 2017, are bright,



ambitious and energetic young people. I hope they have the best of times with us and enjoy the Miss Wales experience, which is committed to empowering young women, raising money for good causes and giving girls the opportunity to make friends and have fun, all through the glamour of pageantry."

The current Miss Wales is 23-year-old Ffion Moyle, a self-

employed beauty consultant from Carmarthen. She is currently in Washington DC for three weeks competing in the 2016 Miss World competition. The reigning Miss World is Mireia Lalaguna from Spain.

The last Miss Wales to win Miss World was Helen Morgan from Barry in 1974.

Sophie Moulds from Ferndale in Rhondda Cynon Taff came second in 2012.

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Annual Friendship Concert a twin triumph for two choirs



St Mary's School choir.



Rhian, Ryan and Steph.

ANOTHER year of making music draws to a close, signposted for Bridgend Male Choir (BMC) choristers and music team by supporting December's annual Friendship Concert at St Mary's Catholic Church, Bridgend.



DR PETER MORGAN

In a welcoming address, Father Tim McGrath spoke of the friendship generated between BMC and the church over many years. This musical 'extravaganza' continues to delight, despite the number of occasions it has been repeated in past years.

While the format remains similar, fresh faces and content make it one to look forward to.

The 2016 offering at the weekend was no exception.

A mix of popular items and carols was the order of the evening, with hosts BMC leading the congregational singing of 'O Come All Ye Faithful' to open the evening. This polished choir went on to entertain an enthralled audience, under the guidance of its excellent musical director, Ryan Wood and support team of Stephanie Bailey on

piano and Scott Williams on organ.

Seasonal offerings included the newly learned 'There is Faint Music in the Night'. Other entertainers present were soprano, Rhian Hughes, Scott Williams with an excellent organ recital of 'Walking In The Air' and of course, the wonderful children's choir of St Mary's Catholic School under the leadership of Gillian Weald.

Rhian made a big impression when she sang with the choir in Porthcawl recently, and hearing her again was always going to be a musical highlight. She sang with feeling, fully engaging those present and speaking her Christmas wishes to generous applause.

It seems like only yesterday that Scott's talent with an organ became known to the choir and what an addition he has made, especially with contributions to 'An American Trilogy' and offering of 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'. Choirs and soloists extend their best wishes to the entertainment, for a happy and peaceful Christmas to all. **DB**

reading from Dylan Thomas' 'A Child's Christmas in Wales' and compere, Gareth Davies kept the evening moving with his usual light humour, but the stars of the show were the children.

Usually, the school's choristers sing only in the first half, but this time the many mums, dads, grandparents etc. were royally entertained before and after the interval.

What was immediately apparent was how much work had been put in to learn their musical items so well.

Happy, smiling faces, and far more boys than usual greeted all present. Christmas and seasonal items made up the tuneful content and diction was faultless.

'Silent Night' and 'Away in a Manger', always popular, were included, to the delight of all present. The children then joined their senior colleagues in a congregational closing offering of 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'.

Choirs and soloists extend their best wishes to the entertainment, for a happy and peaceful Christmas to all. **DB**

A Christmas fairy story

IT has been a difficult year and, to be honest, one I will be happy to see end. Looking back through my diary, there are strands that keep reoccurring.

I had forgotten how much Brexit and the possible election of Donald Trump had dominated even as early as January. Now we are in December and we know the outcomes, but still have to face the consequences.

It's also been a year dominated by terrorism, war and increased political tensions between Russia and the west. The horrors our TV screens have revealed night after night, terrorist attacks in France, bombs hitting civilians covering underground in Aleppo and mass graves found in towns liberated from Daesh in Iraq.

One year ago, it would have seemed impossible to imagine Russia locating missiles in Kaliningrad, threatening all of the Baltic states, or a battle group sailing through the Channel heading for the Mediterranean, to attack opposition fighters in Syria.

The news has been grim, but made grimmer by the rise of false and fake news, trolling on Facebook and Twitter and the unleashing of racial, religious and sexual abuse on social media and in the streets.

The murder of Jo Cox did not sober it all up. Instead, it seemed to make it worse. Threats and abuse towards anyone who was disagreed with increased. Anger seemed to be everywhere.

Now we are in December and looking forward to spending Christmas with friends

and family. The Christmas tree festivals in Porthcawl and Bridgend have shown even greater ingenuity and brought delight to many. The carol concerts have been packed, the posties tell me their sacks have grown even bigger this year and the panto in Porthcawl is a delight.

I spent three days in Washington earlier this month, speaking to senators, congressmen, generals, think-tanks and academics – and the general view of everyone when asked what will a Trump presidency mean, was a shake of the head, a shrug of the shoulders, and palms raised up in the air. Cyber-attacks, internet and financial terrorism are growing.

One company alone protecting critical UK national databases prevents an average of 550 million cyber-attacks a month. Daesh earns \$4m a day from selling oil, antiquities, taxes on local populations and donations. Daesh puts out 55,000 messages on social media in different languages a year targeting vulnerable individuals.

New legislation to monitor internet usage has been drafted around the world to tackle the threat of home grown cyber threats and terrorism.

Meanwhile, the Brexit triggering of Article 50 will take place next March with details of the proposals for exiting the EU outlined before the vote.

I just stopped and re-read what I have written and it is not the seasonal cheer I had planned to write. Those Washington days at the Defence University and intelligence security forum in Congress left me gloomy.

It's so good to come back home and see the positive side of life. The

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive report for The GEM.



volunteers and the generosity of local people who make the foodbank successful in ensuring people don't go hungry.

The many opportunities to enjoy music and the wealth of choirs and musical talent we have. I never fail to be delighted by the energy, enthusiasm and pure joy for life that is part of any visit to a school bringing hope for the future.

I could write a long list of people and organisations that make this a great place to live and represent. They are the people who make our communities strong.

Politically it has been a tough and often unhappy year for the Labour Party. But we have a new leader of Bridgend County Borough Council. I've known Huw David for years and now he's the man leading the council – a very safe, trustworthy pair of hands.

So how do I end and round up 2016?

How about on a personal note? I've been helping with research into frontal lobe dementia. It involved two days of working with a team based in University College London (UCL) having psychological and medical tests.

The team is part of a group in UCL who are looking at motor neurone disease, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's. They recruit people who suffer from these conditions and controls. I was acting as a 'control',

someone who appears healthy with no signs of disease. I will be tracked once a year to see how I change physically and psychologically. Will my brain scan change, my retina grow thicker, my facial recognition, emotional assessment, maths, spatial awareness and memory change?

I hated the hour in the MRI scanner. I found myself gripping the panic button in a way that shocked me. The noises didn't bother me, but the close confinement and the cover over my face made me very

uncomfortable. I survived, however, and the eye, movement, hearing and blood tests all went ok.

You can find more information on their website at www.ucl.ac.uk/drc/research-studies.

As I look back over a year when the world has become a more dangerous place it is all the more important to hang on to the good things in life. To the ways in which good, clever, fun and dedicated people (including my staff in London and Bridgend) are striving to make a positive difference to our world.

Enjoy your Christmas holiday time with friends and family. A big thank you to all of those volunteers, professional and carers making life better here in Bridgend; and to all of the readers and staff of The GEM, a happy Christmas and a peaceful 2017.

'SHAKE THE SALT' will keep paths clear!

DEVONALDS Solicitors have teamed up with SHOUT, the Bridgend over-50s group, to give pensioners containers of special salt to sprinkle over their paths and driveways during icy conditions.

The project, called 'Shake The Salt', aims to make senior citizens feel less isolated as temperatures drop.

Devonalds have recently opened a new Bridgend office and are building on their community links already established throughout south Wales.

The shakers are available for over-50s to collect free of charge from Devonalds Solicitors at the Dunraven Place office.

They will also be distributed to members of SHOUT at their monthly meetings at Evergreen Hall, Angel Street, Bridgend.

The re-sealable shakers are made by Ezi-Melt in Abercynon, and contain pure white, non-staining marine salt, which can be sprinkled on steps and pathways to quickly melt frost, snow and ice. Grant Lloyd, sales director of Ezi-Melt, produced the initial salt



shakers free of charge.

Helen Shaw of SHOUT said: "It is great to be able to offer these potentially lifesaving shakers to local people in the Bridgend area. We would like to thank Ezi Melt for providing the shakers and Devonalds Solicitors for helping us to distribute them to the public."

Devonalds Solicitors can be contacted on 01656 665022 or by email at bridgend@devonalds.co.uk and SHOUT can be contacted on 07891 834230.

LIFE WITH THE Porthcawl LIONS

PORHCRAWL Lions are looking forward to 2017 for a special reason – the centenary of the formation of Lions Clubs International.

The club will embark on a plan to mark this centennial year with events to support projects to promote health, sight, youth as well as good causes.

Anyone interested in doing something new and rewarding for the new year is invited to join Porthcawl Lions.

Visit porthcawllions.org.uk/index.html or call Don on 01656 788583 or Vance on 01656 741833.

For the latest news...
glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Fundraiser Liz standing down



Liz with BHM ambassador boxer Amir Khan.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

When Porthcawl's promenade was refurbished, the BHG had the idea of encouraging local playgroups to organise a sponsored toddle along its length.

The idea of the Big Toddle was adopted UK-wide and is now one of Barnardo's most important annual fundraising events. There have also been local concerts and Hallowe'en parties.

Liz, who is married to Andrew and has three children and eight grandchildren, said: "It's been an incredible 40 years. I went to Chatsworth in the Year of the Volunteer, when the Princess of Wales arrived by helicopter, and I've met the Queen, when she opened Barnardo's national headquarters."

Liz was High Sheriff of mid-Glamorgan in 2014/15 and chose Barnardo's as her charity. She was keen to raise awareness of the charity's work in Parc Prison where it supports children with fathers serving jail sentences and helps them keep in touch with them through visits and play sessions. Barnardo's now runs the prison's visitor centre

which 2,000 children and their families use each month.

She has served as co-chair of the BHGs in south Wales, regional chair for Wales and chair of the national Appeals Advisory Board for the last eight years, and is stepping down at the end of Barnardo's 150th anniversary celebrations.

"It's been hard work but I've loved it. I may have stepped down from my national role, but I'm keen to revitalise the Porthcawl BHG. Things have gone a little quiet for the last couple of years but I'm hoping to change that and we have lots of people who want to support us."

Sarah Crawley, Director of Barnardo's Cymru, paid tribute to Liz's hard work. "It is fantastic that Liz has been recognised for her awareness-raising and fundraising. She has raised money tirelessly through her role in Barnardo's Helpers' Groups and the running of events across Wales."

"She has supported many of our key areas of work, such as children affected by parental imprisonment, care leavers and young carers. Thank you Liz, from Barnardo's Cymru."



One Accord.

Sker WI sees the year out with a sing-song

ON Thursday, December 8 president Nora Williams invited 50 members and a visitor to enjoy the annual Christmas party and say farewell to 2016 in style.

After a fish and chip supper, we were treated to an evening of musical delights from all-female singing group One Accord.

The group performed a fabulous selection of Christmas treats, modern standards and sing-along favourites.

No Christmas party is complete without party games, and members had great fun when committee members had everyone up on their feet taking part in games like 'pass the parcel'.

We also had the usual monthly competition. This month's colour was, appropriately, 'red'. The winner was Margaret Owen, second was Brenda Mahoney and in third place was Claire John.

Brenda was also declared overall winner for 2016 having gained the most number of points for the year.

Next year's monthly competitions will be based on the alphabet, January starting things off with the letter 'A'.

Before the end of the party, some of next year's events were discussed such as our birthday supper, to be held in April at the Hi-Tide and the link meeting that we are hosting at the Grand Pavilion in March.

Rehearsals for the entertainment programme will begin in earnest in the new year.

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone who has read, and hopefully enjoyed, my reports and articles on Sker WI meetings and events.

On behalf of all Sker WI members I wish all readers a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy 2017.

Don't forget – we meet at 7pm on the second Thursday of the month at St David's Church Hall, Nottage village. Our first meeting of 2017 is January 12. Visitors are always welcome so please come along and say hello!

CHRISTINE BEYNON

Llamau's work doesn't stop when Christmas is over

FOR most people, Christmas is a wonderful time of the year. It's a time to meet friends and family, to share food, socialise, and to take some time out to rest.

For some people, though, it's not. Christmas can be a difficult time of the year for young people and

vulnerable women who are facing homelessness. Llamau will be there for them.

The charity helps those who have nowhere else to go, who cannot be at home or who face an uncertain future.

This Christmas, Llamau will be helping local women, children and young people to leave homelessness behind, just as we do every other day of the year.

Its projects are open as normal, serving a Christmas lunch to everyone whom it supports.

Richard Lewis of Llamau said: "Llamau needs your support so that we can help people like Andrea, a young mum from Porthcawl, who was at risk of losing her child after being placed in a foster home for mothers and babies."

"As her placement at the foster home was coming to an end, we worked with Andrea to ensure that she was able to create a home that was suitable for her young child."

"We supported Andrea to address the concerns that social services had, in order to make sure her child had the best possible start in life."

Richard added that

Llamau was able to help Andrea from a point where she was seriously at risk of losing her child and also facing homelessness, to a point where she had developed her independent living skills and created a home where her child could thrive.

Friday, December 15 is 'Local Charity Day' where the work of local charities is recognised and celebrated. Llamau really is a local charity, starting its work in Barry in 1986, and now operating all over Wales.

Richard said: "We need your support all year round. If you'd like to support Llamau and the work that it does in our local community, please go to our website, www.llamau.org.uk where you can find out how to donate to us."

"We graciously accept cash donations, donations of clothing and good quality household items."

If you would like to fundraise, by holding an event such as a coffee morning or quiz night for Llamau, please contact fundraising@llamau.org.uk.

'Make pavements more wheel-chair friendly'

FRUSTRATED RICHARD PLEADS

by GEM REPORTER

A man who suffers from a degenerative illness, says more needs to be done to help people who use wheelchairs to get about on local pavements.

Richard Enos, who lives on the Cwm Talwg estate in Barry, told THE GEM: "Since early 2015, I have been confined to a wheelchair – if that wasn't bad enough getting around is also a nightmare due to crumbling pavements and a lack of dropped kerbs."

For many years, Richard was in good health – he used to work as a mechanic – but 15 years ago, he noticed a deterioration in his physical abilities. "I had muscle loss in the arms and legs, in fact all over the body."

Eventually, he was diagnosed with Becker muscular dystrophy, a genetic disease in which muscle use declines. He was able to work until 2006.

He and his wife Pauline have a Chrysler Voyager with a ramp, which enables him to get out and about, such as down to the Knap.

He also wants to keep as independent as possible in his electric wheelchair – that means being able to make it to the Cwm Talwg pub, his dentist on Porthkerry Road and GP at Highlight Park.

"Sometimes I can be faced with a kerb drop of six inches, the maximum I can do is seven centimetres (2.7 inches)."

It often means he can't take what should be the simplest route to a destination.

"It takes me half an hour to get to the dentist because of the route I have to take."

Uneven pavements, sometimes caused by the roots of trees, are an obstacle too, and make for an uneasy ride. Last year he



Richard Enos says more dropped kerbs are needed in the town to help wheel chair users get about.

spoke to his local councillor, Howard Hamilton, and recently contacted Assembly Member Jane Hutt, who were both sympathetic and said they would get in touch with the Vale Council, but he has heard nothing back.

"What is happening? Nothing has been done at all. I see the cycle path going up along the Port Road with dropped kerbs that don't seem to go anywhere. What about the streets in Barry?"

He emphasised that level pavements and dropped kerbs are of assistance to elderly people and young parents with pushchairs too.

Richard says that when he was able-bodied and driving, he used to keep an eye out for potholes. Now, he looks to see whether an

area has dropped kerbs.

Jane Hutt told THE GEM: "I raised this issue with the Vale Council, and I understand that the area Mr Enos has highlighted has been added to the council's list of sites to be assessed for dropped kerbs."

"However, I understand that completing the work will depend on the availability of funding."

Coun Howard Hamilton, who has been in touch with council officials over the matter, added: "I will continue to support Mr Enos's requests for the installation of dropped kerbs in his area."

"I also completely understand his frustration regarding his request."

Open day at St John's



NORMALLY closed in December, St John's House – Bridgend's oldest inhabitable building (built 1500-1550) will be open on Saturday, December 17, from 11am-3pm. Admission is free.

Mulled wine, hot fruit drink and mince pies are available. Children and adults can make pomanders, salt dough decorations and a fruit Santa.

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BEREAVED DAD TAKES ON GREAT WALL CHALLENGE IN MEMORY OF BABY EVIE

A BEREAVED father is taking on one of the Seven Wonders of the World in memory of his baby girl.

Gary Footman (40), will walk the Great Wall of China next spring – to support Tŷ Hafan, the Sully-based children's hospice, where daughter Evie received end-of-life

care aged just four months. The five-day hike, over watchtowers and mountains and through historic battlement stations, will see Gary

and his fellow Tŷ Hafan trekkers conquer the legendary 1,000 steps up to the Wall at Mutianyu. As part of the charity's Great Wall Trek challenge next April,

there will also be a chance to lend a hand repairing a section of the wall currently under reconstruction, securing the trekkers' own place in the Great Wall of China history.

Gary said: "The main inspiration was to honour my daughter, Evie. Also, I like a challenge – and I have no doubt that this is going to be one. The response from my friends and family, when I said I was doing the challenge, has been a mixture of support and laughter!"

Gary and his partner Sian were devastated when Evie was diagnosed with a life-limiting condition and passed away in January 2013. But the couple remain committed to supporting the charity that helped them in their darkest moments.

"My daughter, Evie, went to Tŷ Hafan for end-of-life care. This meant that we could spend all the time we had left with her, without having to worry about all the other things in life, like cooking and cleaning," he said.

"Also, it is a beautiful place to stay, and there is so much to do and so many ways to make memories, that would not have been possible if we had stayed in hospital."

"It gives you the one thing that you want most at a time like that, time to be with that person, and that is something you cannot put a price on. This is why I am supporting Tŷ Hafan, so other families in our position have the same opportunity that we had."

With Christmas festivities looming,



Gary with his family, spending time with Baby Evie.

getting his fitness up to scratch is going to be Gary's first challenge – and his New Year Resolution for 2017.

"My general level of fitness is not where it is going to need to be for this challenge. I have started back in the gym recently, but for this type of challenge, I am going to need to get up to Brecon and get the mountains in my legs so to speak. A bit more care over Christmas will definitely be needed!"

To join Gary and raise vital funds for Tŷ Hafan, to continue to support children and young people with life-limiting conditions and their families, register your interest or ask for more information, please visit the events page on the Tŷ Hafan website at <https://www.tyhafan.org/china/>

For the latest stories and breaking news...
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'Beware bogus council tax calls'

THE Vale of Glamorgan Council has reported that **Shared Regulatory Services** is warning residents of Bridgend, the Vale and Cardiff to beware of scam phone calls offering a 'rebate' on overpaid council tax.

A lady from Boverton had called to report a telephone call from 'Tracey' at the 'Claim Review Bureau,' with an offer to undertake a review of her council tax and reduce her bill, in accordance with the number of bedrooms she had.

The caller had requested a fee of £69 to undertake the work, but the resident refused to pay. 'Tracey' had provided a telephone number of 0843 289 1039 and when this number was searched online, it would appear that others have received similar calls.

Coun Gwyn John of Llantwit Major, chair of the joint committee for Shared Regulatory Services, said: "We have recently joined the Friends Against Scams campaign and promoted National Safeguarding week in mid-November, which demonstrates our absolute commitment to protecting our residents from fraudulent calls like these."

"We are particularly thankful to those residents that have called to report these scams, as they allow us to help others. It is very important for us to reemphasise the message that you should terminate a phone call you receive out of the blue, especially if the caller requests your bank account number or card details for goods or services. Don't be afraid to hang up the phone – it's your right to do so."

If you or a friend, neighbour or relative received similar calls, contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 040506.

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Closing date for tall ships competition is sailing into view

THE closing date – January 31, 2017 – is fast approaching... to nominate a young person between the ages of 12 - 25.

Let's find that special person who would benefit from such an opportunity. All you need to do is apply in writing telling us why you should be considered for this experience, or if you are a parent, youth leader or a member of the public that know of such a young person who might benefit from such an opportunity then nominate them telling us why they deserve the chance.

Two winners of the Barry Councils Marine Youth Award 2016 met the Mayor of Barry, Charlotte Williams, after winning this year's competition on board the TS Stavros S Niarchos, which is a 200ft brig (a ship with two square-rigged masts) part of a fleet of seven ships with the Tall Ships Youth Trust (TSYT).

The two young people, Jayden Moller and Rhydian Price, spent time discussing their experiences and showing the mayor around the ship and were encouraged by the news that yet again Barry Town Council in partnership with the Tall Ships Youth Trust has launched the competition for 2017.

Local trustee Peter Coleman is always looking to help young people to gain this unique experience, development and fun by sailing with the trust and any opportunity to promote this experience with local organisations and businesses that might like to support local young people in their communities.

For further details, go to website: www.tallships.org or email peterf.coleman@btinternet.com.

BRYAN FOLEY

Network targets high-achieving Welsh students

AROUND 350 pupils from schools and colleges across the Vale of Glamorgan have been selected for an initiative to encourage Wales' brightest students to apply for places at the UK's top universities.

The high-achieving students, from Barry Comprehensive, Bryn Hafren, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg, Cardiff and Vale College, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major, St Cyres and Stanwell School will take their places on the Seren Network, which helps the highest achieving sixth formers reach their academic potential.

The students join more than 2,000 16-18 year olds across Wales that have been selected to be a part of The Seren Network since its launch in January 2015.

It follows a report by Oxbridge 'ambassador', Paul Murphy, former MP for Torfaen and now Lord Murphy, who was appointed by the Welsh Government to examine the decline in Welsh applications and admissions to Oxford and Cambridge.

It aims to increase Welsh representation not just at Oxbridge, but also at the Russell Group

and Sutton Trust 30 group of universities which represent the most selective, research-led institutions.

The network has celebrated a major milestone as it its 11th – and final – regional hub was launched by the Minister for Lifelong Learning and the Welsh Language, Alun Davies, at the Vale Hotel. Representatives from institutions including Oxbridge, Bath and Cardiff were also present.

Mr Davies said: "We know that Welsh applicants to Oxford and Cambridge receive disproportionately fewer offers compared to other UK applicants, despite achieving similar GCSE and A-level grades.

"These students are our experts and future leaders, so it's vital we develop a learning environment where they can really prosper.

"It's fantastic to see so many leading universities are already engaged with Seren and supporting delivery of the regional programmes. We are very grateful to them for their ongoing support."

Local businesses in the running for 2016 Rural Oscars!

WALES' finalists in the 2016 Countryside Alliance Awards (aka the Rural Oscars) have been announced, with businesses from all over Wales going head-to-head for a national title and a shot at the British title – including some local businesses.

Slade Farm Organics in St Bride's Major has been nominated in the Farm Enterprise category and is up against businesses from Carmarthenshire, Brecon and Gower.

The awards are the Countryside Alliance's annual celebration of rural produce, skills, enterprise and heritage through our small hard-working businesses. They are now in their 12th year and have become the definitive rural business award to win.

This year they received over 7,500 nominations, meaning these finalists truly are the 'best of the best'. The

awards are public nomination-led across five categories:

Local Food and Drink, Village Shop/Post Office, Tourism Enterprise, Farm Enterprise, and Butcher.

In the 'Tourism Enterprise' section, the Welsh Hawking Centre in Barry is competing with attractions from Cardiff, Gower and Pembrokeshire.

Countryside Alliance director for Wales, Rachel Evans, commented: "This has been a record year for nominations, showing how much the public values and supports our hard working rural businessmen and women.

"For these finalists to get this far, is already a great achievement and I look forward to meeting them as judging gets under way.

"The Rural Oscars were set up to champion those who go the extra mile for their communities, and it is an honour to offer a voice to rural business in this way."

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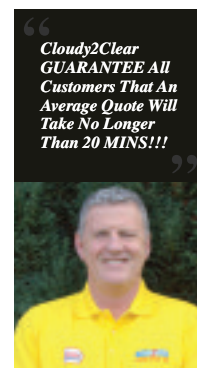
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Fresh TATA announcement is welcomed

COMMENTING on news that a deal has been secured to keep Port Talbot steelworks open, South Wales West AM, Suzy Davies, said: "Clearly 2016 has been an extremely tough time for the Port Talbot area, and I'm delighted that as we approach the new year, the picture looks much more positive."

"The next step will be to secure a viable, prosperous future for Welsh steel but to do that we need to see politicians of all parties standing together to fight the

industry's corner.

"Welsh Government will also need to remain vigilant. The conditions it has rightly placed on TATA in exchange for its financial and other support need to be met for the whole period for which that support applies."

Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, said: "The announcement is welcome news, and proof that when people work together constructively positive results can be achieved."

"However, this isn't the end of the story and work still needs to be done to secure the long term future of this vital steel plant."

First Minister welcomes steel deal

THE recent agreement between Tata and the unions, was described as "a massive step towards securing the future of steel making in Wales."

The Welsh Government is providing over £4 million for skills and training; the first element of a wider package of support for the company to help protect jobs.

First Minister Carwyn Jones, AM for Bridgend, said it was proof of the Welsh Government's confidence in the long-term production of steel in Wales.

LOCAL VOLUNTEERING

GLAMORGAN Voluntary Services (GVS) will be hosting The BIG Volunteering Fayre on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 from 11am to 4 pm at Barry Memorial Hall. Come along to embark on a new adventure as a volunteer and open up a world of opportunities.

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Hundreds to take a chilly New Year's Day dip for Headway!

by Andy Johnstone

The Barry Island New Year's Day swim is not for the faint-hearted, but because many will be doing it to raise funds for the charity Headway, it is for the big hearted.

Not so long ago, Judith Dutton, then a triathlete, would have been on the beach with the best and bravest of them, waiting to swim in the chilly waters, or at other times of the year acting as a lifeguard keeping holidaymakers safe.

However, in 2012 when she was 49, she experienced an 'acquired brain injury' (ABI).

Abruptly, her life changed forever. An ABI can include a brain injury that has occurred since birth, as well as tumours, strokes, brain haemorrhages and encephalitis.

Its counterpart is the traumatic brain injury, or TBI. As its name suggests, it is an injury to the brain caused by a trauma to the head (head injury). There are many possible causes, including road traffic accidents, assaults, falls and accidents at home or work.

Judith told The GEM what happened to her.

"I went to bed one night in 2012, with a headache, having just booked a holiday to Australia to see my son and then...

"My next memory was some six weeks later."

She had had a massive brain haemorrhage – the 'acquired brain injury'.

Judith, who now has some difficulties with her speech, balance and walking, uses the services of Headway, the brain injury association and a registered charity.

Brain injury is often a hidden injury or disability, and can affect every aspect of life – walking, talking, thinking and feeling – and the losses can be severe and permanent. It can mean losing both the life once



Judith Dutton.

lived and the person one once was.

She describes Headway, however, as a family to which she belongs and "...a real lifeline".

Judith picks up the story: "Before my injury I was a fit and active person. Things have changed a lot, but the love and companionship I get from the people, activities and groups I access at Headway are wonderful."

"I try to go there once a week for the activity sessions or to go to lunch with my friends."

"We're all miracles, you know," said Judith of herself and others that have endured and survived brain injuries.

She told The GEM that Rob Salter will be donating all the proceeds from the revellers and swimmers to the charity, which has some 120 local support groups around the country – including one in Bridgend and one in Cardiff – supporting the estimated one-in-64 people in the UK with a brain injury.

Kind-hearted and thinking of others before herself as ever, Judith said: "I had the chance to do lots of things (before my ABI). It's the young folk that acquire a brain injury I feel for most."

Judith is still active, and in the case of the New Year's Day swim, that means working to raise money for Headway.

Headway fundraiser Gill Peace said: "This is a great opportunity to raise funds for our community based services across south east Wales."

"We are also grateful to the Barry Island Swim organisers for the chance to make more people aware of the impacts of brain injury."

Donations to Headway Cardiff can be made through Mydonate <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/barryswim2017/384512>

Contact Dave Maggs, Wales development manager, on 01446 740130. Visit www.headwaycardiff.org.uk or call 029 2057 7707.

For Headway Bridgend, contact Amanda Davies on 07933 252203 or headwaybridgend@btinternet.com.

GLADSTONE INFANTS PERFORM THEIR NATIVITY TO FOUR PACKED HOUSES!



THE infant children at Gladstone Primary took part in four concerts last week, each time performing in front of a full house.

They told the story of the Nativity, accompanied by the singing of both traditional carols and modern Christmas songs, making their teachers and their parents very proud indeed!



Barnardo's group says thank you

THE Barry Barnardo's Helpers Group held its annual coffee and carols at Christmas time event at All Saints Church Hall, Barry, on Saturday, December 10.

A varied programme of musical items, singing and readings was performed by friends of Barnardo's. Coffee and mince pies were enjoyed by all. The Deputy Mayor of the Vale, the Mayor of Barry and Jane Hutt AM supported the event. The morning included a raffle and over £350 was raised which will help to support Barnardo's many projects in Wales. A cheque for £1,500

was presented to a Barnardo's representative at the event, raised from events throughout the last year.

The committee would like to thank all of those who supported and

contributed in any way to a very successful and enjoyable morning.

Mary Edmunds and Jen Morgan, Committee members Barry Barnardo's Helpers Group.

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Out & About with The GEM

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Office Christmas Party isn't worth attending

WORK Christmas parties are a staple part of workplaces around the world, so it seems surprising that it has taken until now for Hollywood to make a film about one.

Office Christmas Party (no points for the originality-lacking title) sees CEO Carol Vanstone (Jennifer Aniston) trying to close the branch of her black-sheep brother Clay (T J Miller).

In order to rally the office staff behind him, he and right-hand man Josh (Jason Bateman) host a large-scale office Christmas party which they hope will not only impress a potential client (played by Courtney B Vance) but also close a sale that may just save their jobs...

It seems that people behaving badly is the latest fashion when it comes to big screen

comedies. The likes of *Horrible Bosses* and *Bad Moms* all see usually rational people driven to acting wildly and outrageously in order to right a wrong or save something.

Office Christmas Party, then, comes wrapped in shopworn festive paper and, while perfectly diverting, doesn't offer anything fresh or innovative – instead, it simply hits the beats you expect it to and plays with a predictability that is only leavened slightly by the cast assembled.

The cast is the film's main appeal: after all the likes of Jennifer Aniston, Jason Bateman, Rob Corddry, T J Miller and Olivia Munn are all dependable and capable of adding something to even the most moribund of comedies, and so it proves here.

The characters they all play are hewn to their strengths, which is both a plus and a minus;



by
GARETH JAMIESON

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Aniston's steely yet mischievous CEO, Bateman's warm-hearted yet put-upon right hand man, Miller's parting, intellectually-flawed boss are all variants on a theme, both in terms of the characters they usually play and the kind of characters that inevitably pop up in films of this ilk.

The performances are

fine and work well within this setting, but there's nothing going against type, nothing to really linger after the film aside from Kate McKinnon's performance as HR harried Mary.

The *Saturday Night Live* performer has already waltzed away with *Ghostbusters* this year, and makes it two with this film, her performance and the character's idiosyncrasies hilarious and by far the best thing on offer here.

Directors Josh Gordon and Will Speck are most well-known for the Will Ferrell ice skating comedy *Blades of Glory*, but fail to really ignite the film with any degree of verve. The comedy set-pieces are predictable and wholly expected (how many times must characters be involved in crashes and accidents while emerging unscathed purely for 'laughs') and they're unable to elevate the serviceable story elements into something interesting.

The story comes from the brains of the *Hangover* trilogy, yet they're very much on the form that saw them deliver two diminishing sequels rather than the

hilarious first one, and, interestingly, there's very little of the film that relies on the Christmas setting to work – take it out of the seasonal context and the story wouldn't require much rejigging at all.

So it's quite short of seasonal joy, but ultimately *Office Christmas Party* is fast food comedy, designed to fill a gap but do nothing more than that. It's nothing spectacular, but thanks to the efforts of the cast, it makes it more watchable than it should be.

VERDICT: A damp squib of a film, *Office Christmas Party* fails to sparkle, carried away by the charm of its cast, in particular Kate McKinnon's film-stealing turn. Pedestrian and run-of-the-mill, the cast do their best and just about pull it through but there's little to (Christmas) cheer about here. *Poor.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Bad Santa* (2003), *Horrible Bosses* (2011).

Go to Glamorgan-GEM.co.uk on Friday to see Gareth's verdict on the latest Star Wars film, *Rogue One*.

'Will it be the final Countdown' for Vale TV quiz star Andrew Fenton?

by GEM REPORTER

A Vale sales director is to star in a Channel 4 Countdown quarter-final next week.

Andrew Fenton (40) who works for Chris Davies Estate Agents takes part in the last quarter final in the current series on Tuesday, December 20 at 2.10pm.

The first quarter final will be broadcast today, Thursday, December 15, at 2.10pm.

Andrew, who lives in Rhosce, told The GEM: "I was on the show earlier this year when the series' heats were broadcast."

"I went to Salford Quays in Manchester and won eight games on the trot, making me an Octochamp, and winning me a place in the quarter-finals."

In fact, Andrew's most difficult opponent was in his first match.

"In my first game it was very, very tight against Norm Ahmad, who was an accountant and computer whizz. It went right down to the wire."



Andrew with one of the Countdown hosts Rachel Riley.

Andrew won 95 - 93. In the other seven matches he had comfortable victories.

Countdown is a British TV institution and has been running for 32 years and the current series is the 75th one.

Andrew is the 'fifth seed' in the quarter finals and due to play John Shaw who is seeded four.

Andrew said that the programme's hosts, Nick Hewer and Rachel Riley, are lovely people who make the contestants feel relaxed and welcome.

The semi finals will be aired on the Wednesday, December 21 and Thursday, December 22, with the final on Friday, December 23.

Your guide to local Christmas services

LOCAL Christmas services (people can visit the Facebook page 'Vale of Glamorgan Methodist Circuit' for further information).

Cadoxton: Friday, December 16 from 3.30pm making Christmas for the Christingle service that follows; Sunday, December 18 at 9.45am, family carols, 5pm traditional carol service with Tenovus choir; Sunday, December 25 at 9.45am, Christmas

worship for the whole church family.

Barry Uniting Church at the Waterfront: Sunday, December 18, 10.30am, traditional carol service; 6pm Nativity led by the junior church; Saturday, December 24, 4pm, Christingle service; Sunday, December 25, 10am, Christmas worship for the whole church family.

Dinas Powys: Sunday, December 18, 10.30am, creative Christmas – Christmas Worship with

crafts and singing; 6pm, traditional lessons and carols; Sunday, December 25, 10.45am, a short gathering to celebrate Christ's birth (you are invited to bring and show a gift).

Saint Athan, The Gathering Place Church and Community Centre: Sunday, December 18, 10.30am, Christingle and carols; Christmas Day, 10am, all age worship.

Crossway, Barry: Sunday, December 18, 11am, Nativity with Pukka, and 4pm lessons and carols; *Christmas Day, at St David's.*

Saint David's, Barry: Sunday, December 18, 6pm 'lessons and carols'; Christmas Eve, from 11pm, midnight holy communion; Christmas Day, 9.45am, worship for all the family.

St John, Barry Island: Sunday, December 18, 4pm Christingle service; *Christmas Day at St David's.*

Contact the ministers for more information. For Cadoxton, Dinas and The Waterfront, Revs Carole and Phil Challis 01446 678730.

For Crossway, St David's, St John and St Athan, Rev Peter Taylor or Deacon Samantha Taylor, 01446 406262.

For Penarth area, contact Rev Phyl Fanning on 02920 710919.

Cowbridge Country Market

THE market wishes all its friends and supporters a happy Christmas: it is open on December 16 and 20 for your final chance to stock up on last minute delights.

A full range of produce and craft items will be available on both days in the Lesser Hall from 9.30am – 11.30am.

Empty jam jars are welcome ahead of our marmalade making in January!

Councillors' surgery

LLANTWIT First Independent Councillors will hold a surgery at the Heritage Centre, Town Hall, Llantwit Major on Saturday, December 17 from 9.30am to 11.30am. Residents with any issue to raise are welcome to attend.

Llantwit Bwls coffee THERE will be a coffee morning in

Llantwit Major Bwls Club Pavilion on Saturday, December 17 at 10am till 12pm.

Entrance £3 includes a cup of tea and a mince pie and a free top-up. There will be a cake stall and book stall, everyone is welcome.

Barry church's sing-along

ON December 18 at 6pm, Barry Spiritualist Church, Buttrills Road is celebrating the holiday period with a festive sing-along.

During the service there will be a presentation of snowflakes, which is this year's theme, with messages to loved ones in spirit written on them to place on the Christmas tree. The festivities will be followed by refreshments and chatter.

Festive meal

CADOXTON Youth Project presents a free Christmas meal at Cadoxton Methodist Church, Church Road, Barry (CF63 1JY) on

December 20 from 6pm – 9pm.

It supports Marie Curie and Ty Hafan, as well as YMCA and Y-Care International. There will be a colouring competition, free selection box for children, and a visit by Santa (children under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult).

Reserve space by December 19 on 01446 734414 or call at 97 Main Street.

Valeways walks

ON Wednesday, December 21 at 10am, Clychau, canhwylau a chinio'r Dolig, Llyfrgell Y Bontfaen, CF71 7AH.

On Wednesday, December 21 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Cosmeston Country Park outside the visitor centre.

Also on December 21 at 2.30pm, the Llantwit Major coffee shop strollers meet at Llantwit Major Town Hall car park.

On Wednesday,

January 28 at 10.30am, the Barry coffee shop strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap.

On Sunday, January 1 at 1.30pm, a New Year's Day walk starts at St Peter's Church, Mill Road, Dinas Powys.

Festive outing

A FULL bus of members from 'Friends and Neighbours' spent the day at Blooms Garden Centre enjoying the festive decorations and displays.

They enjoyed a Christmas two-course lunch in the restaurant and are now looking forward to their Christmas party at Brynhill Golf Club. Contact 01446 400044 for further information.

PACT Meetings in January

PORHTCAWL WEST CENTRAL PACT at Trinity Church on Tuesday, January 3 at 7pm.

FELINDRE, HENDRE, PENPRYSG (PENCOED) &

COYCHURCH PACT at Pencoed Library, Pencoed at 2pm on Monday, January 16.

MORFA TOWN PACT at Penybont Primary School, Minerva Street on Monday, January 16 at 6.30pm.

LITCHARD, PENDRE & COITY PACT at Litchard Mission, Litchard on Thursday, January 19 at 7pm.

REST BAY & NOTTAGE PACT at Nottage Scout Hall, Nottage on Tuesday, January 24 at 8pm.

BRACKLA PACT at Brackla Junior School, Brackla Way, Thursday, January 26 at 6.30pm.

Dinas Boxing Day walk

THE traditional Dinas Powys Boxing Day Walk will start at 10am from Dinas Powys Village Square.

All walkers are welcome, as are well behaved dogs on a lead.

It's a free guided countryside walk through fields and woods, so boots or wellies are a must.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D961

● **£2,000:** 808684.
● **The rollover, which now stands at £9,500, was not won this week.**
● **£10:** 263261, 802561, 131227, 687409, 140212, 790151, 938920, 503205, 751520, 575456, 322796, 401920, 261613, 707179, 808431, 270146, 835675, 417735, 753233, 162523.

● **£5:** 288958, 124094, 395264, 489149, 292818, 222361, 123801, 388263, 869439, 366617, 251876, 752948, 996777,

208840, 246780, 299387, 617725, 419895, 768787, 432478, 446195, 596550, 851128, 195881, 876197, 375173, 169791, 710280, 109726, 725865, 527721, 618051, 417628, 327330, 245720, 714799, 146153, 445533, 153826, 668513, 462402, 862333, 970465, 188050, 778816, 626492, 656697, 628306, 318067, 178044, 211477, 731514, 174222, 108122, 966876, 210082, 001072, 000449, 1438269, 1539552.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

STUDENTS BRING BARD'S WORDS TO LIFE



Manon Keeble and Steffan Leonard.



ABOVE: Harvey Jones with Lady Inkin (branch vice – chairwoman).

Photographs by
KEITH E MORGAN



ABOVE: Marjorie Page, Corienne James, Emily James, Evan Laidler, and Clare Booth (Evan's mother).

What to do if you smell gas...

AS Christmas nears, Wales & West Utilities are reminding people across the area of steps to take if they smell gas during the holiday season.

Head of emergency service, Clive Book, said: "If you smell gas, or are worried about gas safety, you can call 0800 111 999 at any time, day or night, 365 days a year. The call is free. Just pick up the phone, dial the number and you will be put through to a trained operator, who will take all the details and send an emergency engineer to help you."

He explained that all calls to the National Gas Emergency Service are recorded and may be monitored, and

advised: "If you smell gas, call free on 0800 111 999 and turn off the gas at the meter, unless the meter is located in a cellar or basement – in which case, do not enter.

"If there is a smell of gas in the cellar or basement, evacuate the building immediately; put out all naked flames, don't smoke or strike matches; turn off all gas appliances and do not use again until they are checked by the engineer.

"Do not operate any electrical appliances or turn any switches on or off; open doors and windows to ventilate the property; evacuate the building as soon as you can and keep people away from the area."

"ONCE more into the breach, dear friends, once more ..." resounded from the stage as Evan Laidler, of Brynteg Comprehensive School, transported members of the south Wales branch of the English Speaking Union to October 25, 1415 and Shakespeare's Henry V's resounding call to arms at the battle of Agincourt.

...Back to the present scene, the Christmas lunch for branch members at the Cardiff City Stadium, where the young winners of both the Welsh and UK finals of the ESU 'Performing Shakespeare' competition were regaling the audience with excerpts.

Evan, who has appeared in *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Bridgend Youth Theatre, was in one of three presentations that highlighted the dramatic talent in Welsh schools.

Emily Rose James, from King Henry VIII school, Abergavenny, truly captured

the complicated scenario as Viola in *Twelfth Night* where Viola loves her master Orsino, who loves the handsome Cesario – who is not a man at all, but Viola in disguise!

Manon Keeble and Steffan Leonard, from Ysgol Bryntawe, Swansea, have won awards in two national finals, performing the duologue as Stephano and Trinculo from *The Tempest*, and as Katherine and Petruchio from *The Taming of the Shrew*, the latter being their choice for this occasion.

Ena Davies, who has been the driving force behind the development of the Performing Shakespeare competition for the branch, was presented with a Christmas floral basket in recognition of her success in ensuring that our student representatives went on to win in each of the UK finals, with this year's being held at the Gielgud Theatre in London.

This was also an opportunity to listen to Harvey Jones, treasurer of Ty Cariad Africa, a local charity which provides orphans and vulnerable children in Uganda

with shelter and access to education.

With the appointment of teacher Juliette Mirembe at St Kizito Junior School in Kampala, our branch has funded the English language reading material which will help to improve the children's speaking skills and confidence in conversing in what is the universal language.

Money raised at branch social events fund the Welsh Schools' public speaking competitions at primary and secondary levels, as well as the Performing Shakespeare competition, and 2017 promises to be a vintage year with three prestigious speakers already booked.

They are Professor Sir David Omand, former head of GCHQ, on February 7; Lord Butler of Brockwell, former private secretary to five Prime Ministers, on April 28; and Lord Williams of Baglan, former deputy director of the United Nations, on June 15.

Further details are available from Derek Morgan, branch chairman, on 10656 669129; email esuswb@gmail.com.

CAROLS, MINCE PIES, MULLED WINE FESTIVE LIGHTS – AND SANTA CLAUS!

ON the evening of December 4, villagers in Peterston-super-Ely gathered outside the Three Horseshoes pub for the switching-on of the Christmas lights – by Santa Claus himself.

Carols were sung, mulled wine was drunk, mince pies munched, all while Santa handed out gifts to the children.

It was a great way of marking the beginning of Christmas celebrations in the village.

Photographs by
IAN DIXON



Christmas memorial tree

PENARTH Funeral Directors' Christmas memorial tree is available for those wishing to

dedicate personal messages to their loved ones.

A spokesman said: "Call in or phone 02920 703581 with your dedication. Our chapel

is available for you to light a candle and sit in quiet reflection. We have launched a new initiative, the Family Involved Funeral, which features on our new

website www.penarthfuneraldirectors.com.

"This unique funeral option offers families the opportunity to take more active roles in the arranging and delivery of the funeral.

"Feeling more involved in the actual service has been found to help with the grieving process and can also bring financial benefits, to those concerned with rising funeral costs. We created this innovative option after signing up to the Fair Funerals Pledge.

"Each month, Penarth Funeral Directors makes a significant financial donation to a local charity and have chosen the Salvation Army as the recipient of our December offering."

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POPULAR, established funeral directors in the heart of the community, Lyndsay Ellis and his wife Nicola exclusively care for loved ones and bereaved families at The Vale Funeral Service, based at 181 Court Road, Cadoxton.

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Lyndsay explained: "We continue with our family ethos to serve our families to the highest of standards we are known for.

"From the moment you contact us, we will be there for you and will stay with you every step of the way during your difficult time.

"We aim to give care and compassion in dealing with the bereaved family requirements and appreciate that each funeral takes on a different role. No two funerals are the same, as each loved one deserves a personal tribute.

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funeral director, to stand in a sensitive position at a crucial time in the midst of your family, knowing that the high standards of our service and reputation will help you through the most difficult time in your lives.

"We cannot make the pain from losing a loved one go away, but through our efforts, our hope is to make the journey of grief less lonely and perhaps a little easier."

"I can assure clients that we are always here to provide a 24-hour service, seven days a week, 52 weeks of the year, including bank Holidays and Christmas Day. There is always a member of our staff available to talk to."



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Coping with Bereavement

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



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Passmores will offer a sympathetic and efficient service to the bereaved

WHEN a person dies, someone, usually a family member, has the responsibility of dealing with that person's estate.

This may include establishing what assets and liabilities that person had and working out whether a 'Grant of Probate' will be needed to administer the estate.

This is a daunting task under normal circumstances, but for many people may feel a great deal more burdensome mixed with feelings of grief and distress.

Usually the first thing to do is to establish whether there is a will in existence and to make a note of the fact that the estate is to be distributed in accordance with that will.

A will may be held with the solicitor that drew it up or in a safe custody box with a bank.

A personal representative is usually appointed in the will to deal with the deceased person's estate, also known as an executor.

A Grant of Probate is issued by the Probate Registry, upon the submission of certain information based on the person's estate.

It gives the personal representative authority to deal with the deceased person's estate and

allows them to access money held in banks, building societies or other investments.

It also authorises the personal representative to sell the deceased person's home.

Once all funds have been collected in and all commitments have been paid, the personal representative may distribute the estate to the beneficiaries, as set out in the will – or if no will, then in accordance with the rules of intestacy, which are a set of rules setting out who is to benefit.

The personal representative may also have to deal with the payment of inheritance tax, if the estate exceeds the current threshold.

Other responsibilities may include defending a claim against the estate, should this arise.

Passmores offers a sympathetic and efficient service when dealing with probate and estate administration.

If you live or work in Barry, Cardiff or the Vale of Glamorgan and would like further information, ask to speak to our specialist Carli Evans on 01446 721000 or ce@passmores.com today.

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Coping with Bereavement

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

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AN EXPERT'S ADVICE COULD AVOID DISPUTE

BRENDAN SWEENEY, of David Prosser & Co Solicitors, writes:

It is estimated that 60 per cent of the UK population do not have a Will.

A Will takes effect on your death and is an instruction as to what is to happen to your estate.

Probate disputes and challenges to Wills are becoming a growth area, which often leads to substantial costs.

We now live in a world where family relationships are often very complex, and expert advice regarding the drafting of a Will is essential.

A professional advisor can also advise you in relation to inheritance tax, and how you plan to minimise potential liabilities to inheritance tax.

It is important that people are fully aware

of their duties and financial responsibilities when they make a Will, to ensure that they comply with the technicalities that are required to have a valid Will.

The cost of a professionally-drafted Will, after taking advice, is considerably less than the costs that can be incurred if there is a dispute regarding your financial affairs after your death.

Substantial costs can also be saved by taking professional advice early, and putting in place Powers of Attorney – whereby you appoint trusted people to make decisions about your property and financial affairs and health and welfare, if your lose capacity.

The people appointed are made fully aware of their rights and responsibilities.

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If members of the family wish to contribute with poetry, readings, or specific requests, we can provide a person to set the framework for the service. Alternatively, our officiant, having gathered details of the

deceased, will plan a service directly related to his or her life.

There are also a number of ministers and priests of different denominations, both men and women, located throughout Cardiff, Newport and Dinas Powys who work with us in providing these services.

Alternatively, we are happy to work with the minister or lay officiant of the family's choice.

Our aim is to provide the funeral that the family requests. We are willing to provide only the coffin, leaving the family to provide the rest, or to conduct the complete funeral in a professional way.

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Family-run funeral service for the local community

ROBERT D Johnson Funeral Directors aim to offer local families, who require funeral services and bereavement care, the highest level of personal attention.

Already with a great breadth of experience in the industry, Robert Johnson opened Robert D Johnson Independent Funeral Directors at 29 Holton Road, Barry. Working alongside Robert, a fully-qualified and experienced independent funeral director, will be daughter Lisa who is the company's funeral arranger and, under her father's guidance, is

studying to achieve the industry's professional qualifications.

Robert is delighted that Lisa is helping him establish a 'family firm', providing Barriars with a personal and professional service.

With his experience and being focused on his local community, Robert feels he can deliver a truly personal service to ensure all funerals are tailored to a bereaved family's requirements and, just as importantly, to their budget.

The company can be contacted 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and Robert adds: "We will ensure that we are available at all times to meet a family's needs."



Robert D Johnson

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Our pricing is clear, and we advertise this online. As we are not on commission, or are target driven, this shows in our transparent prices.

We are also a member of the Fair Funerals Pledge, fairfuneralscampaign.org.uk which is an organisation campaigning for all funeral directors to advertise their prices clearly with no hidden costs.

We serve all areas of south Wales and we pride ourselves in creating a completely professional and personalised service, unique to each family we serve.

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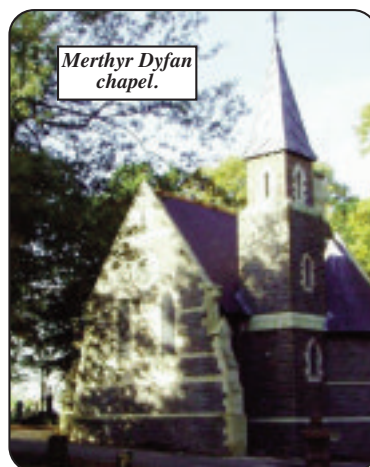
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New memorial is arriving at Merthyr Dyfan cemetery



Merthyr Dyfan chapel.

BARRY Town Council is in the process of purchasing a new service to the bereaved at Merthyr Dyfan cemetery.

This new service will be a 'Columbarium', a stunning 32-vault circular memorial. Each individual niche of the Columbarium can accommodate three sets of cremated remains and offers the bereaved the opportunity to have an inscription on the slate tablet.

The Town Council has placed the order for the Columbarium and anticipates its delivery in April 2017.

For further information on this service, contact 01446 704920; staff will be happy to talk to you.

JR & MF DAVID

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

**Ewenny Road,
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Barry Town Council



MERTHYR DYFAN CEMETERY

Barry Town Council will be offering a new service due in April 2017.

A stunning 32 vault circular memorial.

Anyone requiring further information, please contact Barry Town Council on 01446 704920

Good legal advice can give you peace of mind

COPING with the loss of a family member, or someone close to you, can be difficult and during this emotional time arrangements need to be made and important decisions taken.

Although this can be a daunting prospect, you can ensure that you do not leave your loved ones in the dark, with the help of Anthony and Jarvie Solicitors.

Making a Will allows you to clearly state who inherits your assets as well as appointing an Executor of your choice.

An Executor may be required to cash in assets, sell your home, and deal with any debts and tax matters.

Taking legal advice can also help you with

complex family situations, and if needed, provide inheritance tax advice and look at potentially minimising any tax liability.

After a loved one has died, it can be helpful and reassuring to have someone on hand who understands the legal processes involved.

Probate is often long and complex, and the duties of an executor/administrator to correctly deal with an Estate can be very onerous.

Taking legal advice regarding Wills, or following a death, can prevent mistakes being made, provide you with valuable advice, relieve pressure, and give you (and those you leave behind) peace of mind.

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- Working closely with families, Funeral Directors, Health Authorities and Voluntary Organisations, the Crematorium aims to meet the needs of the bereaved it serves with compassion, dignity and respect in a tranquil and sympathetic environment.

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glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Coping with Bereavement

As the song says... 'No one is alone'

IN Stephen Sondheim's great musical, *Into The Woods*, one stand-out song, 'No one is Alone' is on the subject of bereavement.

The characters who sing it have all lost a loved one, and they find the strength to go on by realising that they don't have to face the uncertain future alone.

From this writer's point of view, it has never failed to bring a tear to my eye.

The preceding pages in this special feature emphasise what good advice is available – whether you are planning for the future, or dealing with an unexpected tragedy.

Professional and compassionate advice, whether it be from a funeral

director, or a solicitor, can make all the difference.

However, as time moves on, many people find it hard to get back on an even emotional keel, and that is when voluntary organisations can be really important.

The best known, perhaps, is Cruse, which has a national website: www.cruse.org.uk and a national helpline: 0808 808 1677.

On a more local level, Cruse has an enquiry line: 029 2022 6166, which is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10am to 12 noon.

An answerphone is available at other times.

PHILIP IRWIN



Howells Solicitors' Wendy Hobbs with the children of Jenner Park Primary.

Cardiff author visits Barry school

CHILDREN'S author and former property lawyer, Wendy Hobbs, visited Jenner Park Primary School in Barry on December 13, to present each pupil with a copy of 'Claudia's Special Wish' – donated by Howells Solicitors – and read excerpts from it.

'Claudia's Special Wish' is a Christmas story written by Wendy at the request of Dreams & Wishes, a non-profit local

charity that helps seriously ill children and their families.

All profits from the sale of the book will be used to help grant the dreams and wishes of these children.

The visit was organised by Howells Solicitors who invited local schools to request a visit from the children's author. Jenner Park Primary School was chosen because of the "collective efforts and hard work of the staff, parents and pupils to provide a good education."

CHRISTMAS at Bethel Baptist Church

Sunday
18th December,
10.30am
**FAMILY
SERVICE**

Sunday
18th December,
6pm
**CAROL
SERVICE**

Wednesday
21st December,
10.30am
**COFFEE &
CAROLS**

Saturday
24th December,
6.00pm
**CHRISTMAS
EVE SERVICE**

Sunday 25th December, 10.00am
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Bethel Baptist Church, Harbour Road, Barry
www.bethelbarry.org

A MOTHER who created her own support group after she contracted a rare condition which caused her brain to outgrow her skull has been shortlisted for a national award.

Jan Hampson, 53, from Dinas Powys, is one of just three people from across the UK to be named a finalist for the Alex Richardson Achiever of the Year award – sponsored by Slater & Gordon Lawyers.

The accolade will be presented at a ceremony organised by Headway – the brain injury association – in the Dorchester Hotel in London tomorrow (Friday, December 16).

In 2011, Jan was diagnosed with a brain malformation, which if left unchecked, could have resulted in paralysis. She underwent surgery to remove part of the skull to alleviate the condition and spent nearly eight weeks in hospital before she embarked upon a slow, uphill journey to recovery.

Despite feeling she had lost almost everything that she enjoyed from her previous lifestyle refused to give up and with the help of Headway Cardiff, she rebuilt her life.

Jan said: "I had a very active and rewarding outgoing lifestyle before the operation. I loved cycling, rock climbing, caving, scuba diving, sea kayaking and motorcycling – among other things – these took up almost every minute of my spare time."

"My life has changed and it has devastated my family's life, and changed it forever. We make the best of things; I am still here and we do what we can."

Jan was nominated by Headway Cardiff for her work setting up a social group called Brainy Friends.

Jan said: "I felt there was room for more social occasions in addition to those provided by Headway Cardiff, and it seemed like a good way to spend time with the new friends I had made there."

"I know of our daily struggles and that it can be very isolating, so when we are together we can be ourselves without being judged."

Jan said she was shocked to be shortlisted for the award. She said: "It's a real honour and I'm gobsmacked to be honest. I just love doing it and seeing my friends having so much fun makes me so happy."

Jan was nominated by Headway Cardiff's chief executive, Rebecca Pearce.

She said: "When you get to know Jan, you

realise that if you were to pick a friend, she is exactly the sort of friend you would want – very plain speaking and honest, she tells you how it really is, and is also incredibly loyal and caring."

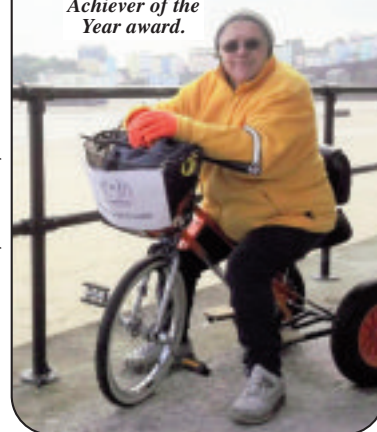
Each year, the Headway Annual Awards celebrate the exceptional efforts of survivors of brain injury and their carers.

Jan will discover if she is to be named Alex Richardson Achiever of the Year at a ceremony in London, on Friday, December 16.

Awards for Volunteer and Carer of the Year will also be presented, alongside the Stephen McAleese Outstanding Contribution to Headway Award.

Caring Jan nominated for top national award

Jan Hampson,
finalist for an
Achiever of the
Year award.



Jo's students shine

A BUSY and successful term has been completed by local youngsters, all of whom have music lessons with Barry-based teacher Jo Weaving.

Following their success at the 2015 Music in the Vale Competition, recorder duo, Jack Ollier and Benedict Griffin, referred to as 'the Dynamic Duo' by one concert goer, have accepted several engagements this term, including performing in this year's Cowbridge Music Festival, the Sennyd and a charity concert in Porthcawl.

Jack and Benedict entered the 2016 Music in the Vale Competition where they were highly commended in the ensemble section for their performances of *Allegro* by Mozart and the theme from *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

Jack competed as a soloist in the intermediate class, performing to an extremely high standard on piano, clarinet and recorder, and won the prize for the most promising instrumentalist from across the whole competition.

Harrison Ollier (8) entered the junior class of the competition for the first time, playing the guitar. He was highly commended for his playing.

Several students have sat ABRSM exams in recent months and all have passed with flying colours.

Passes were awarded to Jemima Whiffen for grade 3 piano and Amy Hickery for grade 6 piano.

Merits were awarded to Benedict Griffin for grade 3 recorder and Jack Ollier for grade 7 clarinet. Merits were also awarded to Hannah Mitchem and Elysia Hickery, and a distinction was awarded to Samuel Griffin, for grade 5 theory.

Finally, Honor Hopkin sat her piano prep test and received outstanding comments for her playing.

Many students are members their school ensembles, as well as various county music ensembles, including the junior schools, foundation and high school orchestras where they all participate in weekly rehearsals, and in concerts performed in venues such as St David's Hall.

Jo said: "Being able to play a musical instrument is such a lovely skill to have. All my students work very hard and it's lovely being able to witness their progress on a weekly basis."



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Free exhibition

BARRY'S Canon Hill Art Centre will hold a two-day Christmas event featuring the work of artist Glyn Pooley, Carl Battle (knitwear) and Barbra Archdale-Smith (local photography).

It takes place on December 17-18 (10am-4pm); free admission, plus complimentary raffle ticket on entry, with a chance to win a prize from one of the exhibitors.

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Of cucumbers, flea bites and clinging to power at all costs

SINCE Britain voted for Brexit, I've watched countless TV debates where the reaction is either jubilation or despair.

I have yet to see any serious debate about how, after more than four decades, the EU has evolved to what it is now.

It began as the Common Market, where, joining meant the simple abolition of trading tariffs to the mutual benefit of its six member states.

The writing on the wall began when Commissioners in Brussels began stipulating such absurdities as how the bend in cucumbers should all be identical. Instead of politicians, and citizens, "shouting what is this bullshite?" with typical British patience we were amused, and above all indulgent.

Since then, while 27 more countries have joined up, this indulgence has prevailed via successive governments to the point where Commissioners watch us endure six years of gruelling austerity, observe a slight improvement in our economy then demand, AND receive, a mammoth increase of two billion euros in our contributions.

In the ebb and flow of commerce with the EU this is, of course, a financial flea bite – but tell that to the people who have three feet of sludge in their living room, because we can't afford adequate flood defences.

In my opinion, Brexit was a David Cameron venture in PR that was never intended to actually happen, a one-way closed door never to be opened again.

READER'S VIEW

Barrie David Corcoran

orchestrated with a bland 'yes or no' vote that would have done well to offer a third option. Renegotiation!

What it HAS done is stir to the surface the immense discontent with member states, such as Greece, Italy, and France not far behind, all yearning for change.

Standing like a colossus over everything is the IMF, the wealthiest bank on the planet, who continually bale everybody out, including Britain, where every news bulletin I watch portrays the dire reality of our economy with an endless agenda – ranging from child poverty to prisons we can't afford to build, from the NHS, to radical cutbacks in the thing that, above all, keeps us safe – our armed forces.

In an age where centuries of conflict in Europe has (hopefully) ended via the growth of the EU, in real terms it's become an economic free-for-all, where individual 'national interest' will always compromise change that could better the lives of millions, most of all those who perish in the Mediterranean seeking, not a better life, but life itself.

Summing up, Brexit was a protest against aspects outlined above that will resolve absolutely nothing.

As I see it, the way forward, if there is to be a way forward, is a collective, long overdue challenge by member states and their people against the handful who wield mammoth power – yet still think in terms of two things – cucumbers, and retaining their power at any cost.

A mild winter complicates life in the beehive

ALTHOUGH my visits to the apiary are not as frequent now, and internal inspections have ceased so as not to cause undue disturbance to the colonies that are supposedly settling down for winter, thanks to the mild conditions all of the colonies are still very active.

Foragers can be observed returning with pollen in abundance. Theoretically each colony should now be in a cluster (ball) and remain so until the spring of the next year.

This cluster is a survival tactic, very little in the way of food is required and movement is undertaken only to access stored food or to better control the internal temperature of the hive.

Activity is related to food consumption, so the less the activity, the longer the stored food supply should last.

For some years now we have had winters that have been mild, with some wet days and some dry days.

Freezing temperatures have not lasted long and with temperatures as they are now in the 'teens ie 10 to 12 centigrade, the bees have sallied forth in search of what they must assume to be spring blossoms to exploit.

As we are aware, there are some blooms in existence that should not be; what little there is, cannot support an active colony, so they do rely on the in-house stores – bringing us full circle to the link between activity and food.

To further complicate the situation, thanks to the mild winters, we have queens still laying when they should have ceased to do so a couple of months back. As a result, we now have larvae that require sustenance, ie food!

So, instead of a colony settled for winter we have a colony responding to the current conditions and remaining active.

All very confusing, I know, but remember – it is the weather that dominates the bees' world.

Will the changing weather patterns bring

News from the Fonmon Apiary by Harold Williams

about a change to our established beekeeping activities?

Who knows? It is incumbent upon the beekeeper to keep a closer watch than normal throughout the so-called winter months. Colony losses, due to prolonged harsh weather, were once the main worry.

Losses now will be due to lack of sufficient food resources.

We do, of course, still have the varroa problem to contend with and, as they live in very close harmony with the bees, a laying queen means larvae. This in its turn provides a breeding site for varroa.

'Move to a proper Welsh Parliament is long overdue' – Tory leader

CALLS for the National Assembly's name to be changed are 'long overdue, but welcome' according to Welsh Conservative Leader, Andrew RT Davies.

On December 8, the Presiding Officer launched a consultation asking the people of Wales how its name could be changed to reflect its role and increased responsibilities.

Mr Davies first called for the Assembly's name to be changed in 2012, in a piece for *The Guardian*.

The South Wales Central regional AM has long called for the Assembly to be a 'proper Welsh Parliament', not least because it would strengthen the distinction between the legislature and executive and boost public awareness of where accountability lies.

Mr Davies said: "The time has come

for Wales's devolved institution to lose the 'Assembly' tag and brand itself as a proper Welsh Parliament – strengthening the distinction between legislature and executive, while giving it the accolade the people of Wales afforded it in the 2011 referendum.

"The process for this to happen is very simple. One small amendment to the Government of Wales Act 2006 would be all that needs to change the National Assembly for Wales into the Welsh Parliament.

"No expensive rebrand, no new buildings, no new protocol – but what a statement it would be!"

What do GEM readers think?
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Parkinson's sufferers urged 'Make sure you get support'

PARKINSON'S sufferers in the Vale of Glamorgan are being urged to make the most of the local support services available.

The number of people with Parkinson's is not currently recorded by health services in Wales, but it is estimated that there are 265 sufferers in the Vale, based on current prevalence figures.

Parkinson's UK local advisers offer free confidential advice and support, and the Vale's local advisor is Delyth Pritchard. The Vale of Glamorgan Support Group meets at 2pm on the first Tuesday of the month at Murchfield Community Hall, Dinas Powys, and offers

friendship, peer support and a range of activities.

The South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies has joined the call for sufferers to make the most of the benefits they provide.

"Parkinson's is a truly awful disease that has a huge impact on sufferers' lives – as well as those of their friends and families. Here in the Vale, Parkinson's UK do a lot of good work to provide them with support, be it through local advisor Delyth Pritchard or the Vale of Glamorgan Support Group," he said.

"Having seen their services in action, I would strongly urge sufferers to make the most of them and seek any support they need."

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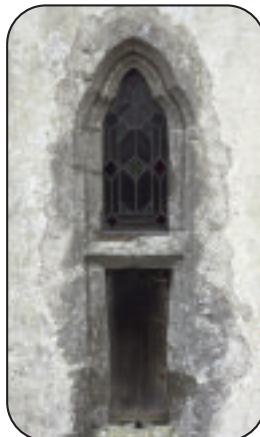
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Aston Martin CEO addresses Welsh Automotive dinner



THE Aston Martin top team addressed the Welsh Automotive dinner at the Vale Resort recently, and Aston Martin CEO Andy Palmer was the keynote speaker. He spoke about the 750 jobs they will creating in Wales at the St Athan site with three times that many in the supply chain, and that the cars will be labelled 'Made in Wales.'

Leper window causes interest for ramblers



The leper window at Holy Trinity Church, Marcross.

ON December 6, Vale Ramblers held one of our regular walks with a historical bent, this time led by Margaret Scott.

Our first stop was at the medieval church of St Mary in Monknash followed by a visit to Holy Trinity Church in Marcross with its 14th-century tower and leper window, which provided a viewing point for church services from a safe distance.

Nash Lighthouse was an ideal spot for a coffee break, before our trek along the coastal path to St Donat's Church. We were so busy chatting we managed to miss the bus and walked back to The Horseshoe Inn in Marcross.

Our next history walk will be in January in the Margam area. Next Sunday's walk, our last of the year, will be in Cardiff Bay. Please see www.valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk for more details.

You can also find us on Facebook where you can 'like' our page to get notifications. JB

Double bill of entertainment at Llanccarfan Primary school!



Infants' line-up.



Juniors.

PARENTS, friends and family were treated to two Christmas productions at Llanccarfan Primary School last week.

As always, the infant children enchanted the audience with their lovely version of the nativity story, *Born in a Barn* (a school spokesperson reports).

The children were in fine voice and all the hard work and effort put into the last few weeks of rehearsals certainly paid off, they all used very loud voices for everyone to hear and enjoy their speaking parts and they

also sang beautifully. The junior performance of *Cinderella & Rockerfella* was also a massive hit and the audience demanded two encores!

The talent we have here at Llanccarfan is truly outstanding and our parents deserve to be extremely proud of the children's performances.

Congratulations and thank you to all the staff involved and to the parents for your support and appreciation of the children's talents. Merry Christmas and happy New Year from everyone at Llanccarfan Primary School!

Will you surprise an older person in hospital with a festive gift box?

SINCE 2013, elderly patients on wards at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB) have been getting an extra surprise at Christmas courtesy of Sally's Gift.

Sally Hayward was a physiotherapist who worked in Llandough Hospital for 29 years. She died from cancer in October 2013.

In Sally's memory, her friends and colleagues organise an annual collection of shoeboxes and gift bags filled with gifts to give to elderly patients who are in University Hospital Llandough at Christmas, who may not have family and friends visiting over the festive period.

In 2015, physiotherapy staff delivered nearly 300 gifts to patients at University Hospital Llandough, University Hospital of Wales, St David's Hospital, The Barry Hospital and a nursing home in Cardiff.

You can help by making up a shoebox or gift bag for someone at

Christmas. How to make your gift bag or box: the bag or box needs to be wrapped or decorated in a way that it can be opened before being given to a patient, in order to ensure it is suitable for individual patients;

Fill your bag or box with either items for a man, woman or unisex and label accordingly: Examples of items to include - toiletries, toothbrush, toothpaste, flannel, a puzzle book, bed socks and tissues.

Guide price for your shoebox is a maximum of £10.

If you don't want to make up a shoebox but have some items to donate we would be happy to receive them.

Completed shoe boxes or gift bags need to be delivered to the Physiotherapy Department at any of the hospital sites in Cardiff and Vale UHB, by Friday, December 16.

They will be delivered to the wards from Wednesday, December 21.

Contact Cath Marshall or Alison Lloyd on UHL extension 25443/ 02920 715443.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council (CEMETERY ROAD, BARRY (PART)) (ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2017

The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), and of all other enabling powers intends in not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below: -

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location Cemetery Road, Barry will be closed between its junctions with Barry Road and St Teilo Avenue.

Reason To allow for construction works for the new Cemetery Road Park and road improvements to take place.

Duration From 07.30Hrs on Tuesday 3rd January 2017 for a maximum period of 18 months. (It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 16.30Hrs on Friday 21st April 2017, (weather permitting).

Alt. Route Signed local diversions for traffic and pedestrians shall be in place via Barry Road and St Teilo Avenue during this closure.

NB: Pedestrian access CANNOT be maintained during this closure.

Dated this 15th day of December 2016

M. E. Punter,
Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe.
CF5 6AA.



Cyngor Bro Morgannwg GORCHYMYN (HEOL Y FYNWENT, Y BARRI (RHAN)) (CAU FFORDD) (DROS DRO) 2017

Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, wrth arfer ei bwerau dan Adran 14 Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 (fel y'i diwygydd) yn bwriadu, ymhen heb fod yn llai na saith niwrnod o ddyddiad yr Hysbysiad hwn, gwneud Gorchymyn a fydd yn gwneud yr hyn a ddisgrifir yn yr atodlenni isod: -

ATOLDEN 1

1. Ni fydd unrhyw berson yn achosi neu'n caniatáu i gerbyd modur deithio yn y lleoliad a nodir yn Atolden 2 isod.

ATOLDEN 2

Lleoliad Bydd Heol y Fynwent, y Barri ar gau o'r cyffwrdd â Ffordd y Barri a Rhodfa Teilo Sant.

Rheswm I alluogi gwaith adeiladu ar Barc newydd Heol y Fynwent a gwelliannau i'r ffordd.

Hyd O 07.30 ddydd Mawrth 3 Ionawr 2017 am hyd at 18 mis. (Disgwylir i'r gwaith gael ei gwblhau erbyn 16.30 ddydd Gwener 21 Ebrill 2017 (yn dibynnu ar y tywydd))

Llwybr Amgen Bydd gwyriadau lleoliad i draffig a cherddwyr ar waith ar hyd Ffordd y Barri a Rhodfa Teilo Sant tra bod y ffordd ar gau.

DS: NI ELLIR caniatáu mynediad i gerddwyr tra bod y ffordd ar gau.

Dyddiedig 15 Rhagfyr 2016

M. E. Punter,
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Meet schoolboy Mack (11) a fast-rising star baker!



Mack Jenkins with his Victoria sponge.

A PORTHCAWL boy is back home after coming close to TV glory in the popular CBeebie show, Junior Bake Off.

Mack Jenkins is 11 and goes to West Park Primary, but he has amazed his family with his interest in baking – and with his ability too.

Mack's father Daymian told The GEM: "He first took an interest when he was three or four. A neighbour he called Auntie Eirwen used to do a lot of baking and he would go along and help her."

Soon after, the family moved to Australia. They stayed there for six years and Mack's interest in baking continued throughout that time. He was a regular, asking questions in a local bakery, and would bake his own cakes and sell them too.

Mack has a twin brother, Archie, and a 13-year-old sister, Scarlett, and neither has any interest in baking. They enjoy his cakes, of course, as do some lucky schoolchildren in Cardiff.

Daymian explained: "My wife Eleanor teaches in the Bishop of Llandaff School, and takes Mack's cakes to school as a treat for her pupils."

When Mack headed off to his heat in the Bake Off, with his mum as chaperone, they discovered a set that was almost identical to the adult show, and they found that the chief judge was Nadiya Hussain – the 2015 Adult Bake Off winner.

They found the competition was quite keen too. Mack started in fine style, winning the technical challenge with an Anzac biscuit, similar to those baked for the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) in WWI.

This was Mack's own idea, and came from the family's time in Australia. Mack explained: "An Anzac cake is very popular there, and I adapted the ingredients to make a

biscuit."

Judging by those ingredients, it sounds a fantastic creation, using coconut and golden syrup, macadamia nuts, and two different layers, one of vanilla butter cream, and one of passion fruit coulis.

Daymian said: "When the presenters spotted that he was Mack, and I was Daymian, they thought the 'macadamia' nuts were very funny."

The Anzac biscuit was a great success, and Mack was top baker in the technical challenge. However, the standard was high and sadly he was beaten and didn't move on in the competition.

He's back home now and still busy in the kitchen. For fun, Mack also cooks two or three evening meals for the family, something that will make plenty of parents envious.

Daymian said: "Despite his obvious interest, Mack says that cooking and baking is just for fun and he doesn't want to make a career of it."

The GEM met Mack at SUSSED, in James Street, Porthcawl, which was holding its own 'Bake Off Challenge'.

Mack entered a simple Victoria sponge – which was light as a feather – and he took first prize in his age group (under-16).

Taking first prize in the over-16 age group was Nathan Barrett, a teacher at Nottage Primary School, who stressed that the children in the school had baked them with him, together with his teaching assistant, Miss Taylor, so it was very much a team effort.

Finally, Mack Jenkins is bringing his cooking skills to SUSSED on the third Saturday of each month, to give local residents a chance to try some of his creations.

Please note that due to school commitments, he won't be there this Saturday, so his next appearance is scheduled for January.



Other cakes entered in the contest.



DICKENS OF A GOOD NIGHT IN DINAS POWYS!



THE annual Dickensian Night in Dinas Powys was a roaring success.

Many residents gathered in the heart of the village and enjoyed a great evening out. There seemed to be more stalls than ever with a wide range of goods available.

Organised by Dinas Powys Rotary, the event was enjoyed by hundreds of people who braved the elements.

The proceeds from the night were to be shared between Blood Bikes Wales and Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern.

Blood Bikes Wales is a voluntary organisation, that provides an out-of-hours

emergency motorcycle courier service to the hospitals of Wales delivering supplies.

There were many local organisations selling cakes, toys, hot chocolate, mulled wine, Christmas decorations, presents and much more, a spokesperson reported.

The brass band played traditional carols and wonderful cooked food was produced by the Scouts.

The Christmas tree was impressive and Santa Claus made a welcome appearance.

Congratulations to the Rotary Club on a magnificent event!

For more information on Blood Bikes Wales, visit: www.bloodbikeswales.org.uk

College helps put young on track for life in the forces



A college in Bridgend prepares young people for life in the Armed Forces and in Civvy Street.

The Military Preparation College (MPCT) has 50 young people on its books ranging in age from 14 to 19. The 14-to-16 year olds come in by arrangement with their schools, while many of the older ones are hoping to join the Armed Forces or have already applied.

Area operations manager, Ian Shaw told AM Suzy Davies that those waiting to go to the Army, Royal Navy, Royal Marines or Royal Air Force attend full-time, while the younger ones attend part-time.

Mrs Davies, a Welsh Conservative regional AM, said: "I was very impressed with the quality of the training offered to these young people."

"Many of them have had a difficult start in life and a lot did not get on in school."

"This college works with them to improve their basic literacy and other skills as well as improving their physical fitness."

She was pleased that those youngsters who fail to get accepted into the military, or who realise that the life is not for them, are helped to find a different career path either by getting into work, or into further education.

Several youngsters, she noted:

"Now intend to join the police force, which also demands physical fitness."

The MPCT uses fitness facilities at Bridgend Life Centre and Bridgend YMCA, and all students undertake a Level 1 BTEC in public services.

Ian Shaw said that the MPCT, which operates nationally, was set up in 1999 and while it is independent of the Armed Forces, its aim is to instil the core values of British Army. Its instructors are ex-military, and it enjoys close links with all branches of the services.

MPCT operates throughout Wales and England and has helped 2,400 youngsters get into the Armed Forces and another 6,000 into civilian roles.

It operates at 21 Welsh locations while the college at Bridgend opened about seven years ago.

Mrs Davies added: "It was great to chat to these young people. Many have a burning desire to join the Armed Forces – while others are being helped with literacy, numeracy and other basic skills as they would appear to have fallen through the net as far as 'conventional education provision is concerned."

"Whichever way they go in life, I am sure that MPCT sends them out into the world better equipped with skills and confidence in themselves than they had when they first started."

MP watches shoebox volunteers at work



Alun Cairns with Operation Christmas Child organisers and volunteers from Ewenny.

VOLUNTEERS from Ewenny and shoeboxes from Barry were the most recent contributions to Operation Christmas Child when Alun Cairns MP visited the Pontyclun warehouse.

He watched volunteers at work in the industrial unit, provided by

Edwards Coaches, to bring Christmas cheer to the poorer regions of globe.

This year, 35,000 shoe boxes are being distributed by the OCC from Pontyclun, with 26,000 from south Wales and 9,000 from Southampton.

They are heading to Zambia, Belarus, Romania and Albania.

Ysgol y Deri wins praise from Estyn inspectors

YSGOL Y Deri, the Vale's state of the art facility for educating children and young people with special educational needs, has received praise from the schools' inspectorate Estyn following its inspection.

Both the school's current performance and prospects for improvement were rated as 'good', the second highest scoring possible.

Estyn singled out the school's learning environment for particular praise. The facility, which is part of the award winning Penarth Learning Community, features modern accessible sports facilities.

The culture within the school was praised for being "highly positive and inclusive."

The school's leadership was classed as 'excellent' with the headteacher and senior leadership team drawing praise for having

"established a clear vision for the newly created school that focuses on providing opportunities for all pupils to achieve their potential."

Head teacher Christopher Britten said: "We are delighted with this report. Estyn have recognised the tremendous work that everyone at the school does every day. The success of our pupils is celebrated and their fantastic achievements have been acknowledged."



YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

St Michael's and All Angels Church, Maesteg.

BOIS Goetre Hen male voice choir will perform in a show titled 'Carols by Candlelight' on Tuesday, December 20 at 7pm. Proceeds from this show will be donated to Prostate Cancer Research (Wales).

Laleston WI THE December meeting was taken by president Dawn Storie, who welcomed everyone to our Christmas party evening, with a fantastic turnout considering the awful weather that night.

Katherine Nelson won the raffle, while joint quiz winners were Elaine Jones and Jane Lewis. Our competition winners were Tina Coleman, Deborah Jones and Naomi Williams, thank you for coming along in your elf costumes, ladies, you looked great! Gwyneth Jenkins gave a vote of thanks.

A huge 'thank you' to all committee members, for all their hard work ensuring the party was a success and for all their endeavours throughout the year.

The luncheon club will be on January 10 and the book club, at Bridgend Library, will take place on January 19.

Our next meeting will be held on 5 January at 7.15pm in Blandy Hall (Laleston Gardening Club). We will be holding a Beetle Drive and the competition will be 'an insect item'.

Happy New Year to everyone, why not make 2017 the year you come along and join us at the WI? New members are always very welcome and Laleston Women's Institute is a very friendly group. We have a full programme of speakers to look forward to throughout the year, along with a variety of outings planned, that should appeal to everyone. For further information call Diane on 01656 656600.

Tondu Primary School

MRS S Pilcher thanks the Parent Teacher Association and staff who gave up their time to help prepare all the resources and to man the stalls at the Christmas fair. Their work was appreciated.

The school is grateful to Father Christmas, who met all the children. The association is pleased to announce that the fantastic amount of £844 was raised on the day of the fair. £165 was raised from selling Christmas cards and

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Dillon flicks the switch to light the Llancarfan tree

AN enjoyable evening of carol singing and celebration on December 4, saw the start of the Christmas festivities in the village of Llancarfan.

The evening saw well over 100 villagers attend the lighting of the Llancarfan Christmas tree. The event was kicked off by our guest of honour, Dillon Bellamy, winner of Llancarfan Primary School's painting competition, who flicked the switch on the magnificent lights of the Christmas tree that lit up the evening sky.

The singing was led by Sarah, Hayley and Jo with

hearty renditions of all our favourite Christmas tunes that rang throughout the village, and James at the Fox and Hounds provided the mulled wine and mince pies.

We would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the evening and Max, Matt, Rich and John for putting up the tree. Thanks must go to the Thomas family for allowing us to use their equipment, James at the Fox and the Osborne family, who are providing the power to the lights again this year.

JF

Inspiring young cooks in the kitchen

BBC Children in Need and BBC Cymru Fyw, the BBC's Welsh language service, have launched a collection of films created by young people sharing recipes to inspire others to learn to how to cook.

The collection includes one that has been created by young people who attend the BBC Children in Need-funded local project KPC Youth in Bridgend. "Young people across the UK are facing various challenges, such

as the difficult transition into adulthood, living independently for the first time or developing basic skills needed such as cooking. These films, created by young people, aim to inspire other young people to have a go at cooking themselves," a spokeswoman explained.

"I've included some more information below." You can also watch all of the films at the following links: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cymru/yw/37950717>; <https://www.youtube.com/user/BBCin/videos>.



Andrew RT Davies in his favourite festive jumper at the Senedd.

Ring in the new with Mari Lwyd!

COME and celebrate the 'Old New Year' with Menter Bro Ogwr and the Mari Lwyd!

The Mari Lwyd tradition is a New Year ritual which has strong connections with Bridgend county, in particular, the village of Llangynwyd, Maesteg. A decorated horse skull is carried from house to house. On arrival at the door of a house, the party challenge the people inside to a battle of rhyming verses called pwncw, in order to gain entry.

The Mari Lwyd will be visiting the Corner House Inn, Llangynwyd on Sunday, January 13, 2017. The night will start at 7.30pm and there will be singing in the bar with Jamie Bevan to follow.

All are welcome!



Tory leader dons a festive woolly for Save the Children

THE South Wales Central AM and Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, has urged local residents to join him in taking part in Christmas Jumper Day for charity on Friday, December 16.

Save the Children is calling on people across Wales to wear a festive woolly and donate £2 to help vulnerable children across the world.

The money raised will be used on projects including clothes for children in refugee

camp to keep them warm this winter.

It will also go towards ensuring they have nutritious food, or provided with a safe place.

"Closer to home, it will also go towards giving children experiencing poverty in Wales a better future," Mr Davies said.

"Christmas Jumper Day is obviously a bit of fun, and has become something of a tradition here in the past few years.

"But it is also a fantastic way to raise money for good causes, both here in Wales and across the world."

mugs. Everything raised will go to buy resources for the children in the school.

The Chaplin Theatre Company performed *The Magic Castle* for the children on December 5.

Rev Askew visited the school on December 7 to take assembly. The children enjoyed taking part.

Last Friday the Tondu Primary School choir entertained at the Ty Hafan lunch at the Marriott Hotel, Swansea, where Chris Coleman was the guest of honour. They were a credit to the school and we are grateful for their hard work. They also took part in the carol service at Tondu Methodist Church on December 7.

Tondu Toddlers has now finished for Christmas and will resume on January 11.

There will be no Helping Hands meetings until next term. Thank you to all those parents and grandparents who give time each week to help with the children.

Brackla Community Centre

Beauty and The Beast is being presented at the Brackla centre on Friday, December 16: doors open 6pm. Tickets £5 adults, and £2 for children.

Noteworthy mixed voice choir

THIS choir, formed by Ryan Wood, who is also musical director of Bridgend male choir, is performing in a concert at St Michael's and All Angels Church, Maesteg on Friday, December 16 at 7.15pm.

Also performing will be the Cor Tadau Trisant and last year's winner of Dunraven Welsh Young Singer competition, Eirlys Myfanwy Davies. Tickets are £7 and all money goes to Cancer Research Wales.

Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd

HEADTEACHER Meurig Jones is happy with the hard work of all the school staff and pupils in implementing the recommendations set out by the Estyn Inspection and recent review, this is evident in the GCSE results this year.

The school looks forward to a successful future and will continue to build on the

foundations we have made as the only Welsh medium comprehensive school in Bridgend County Borough.

Aberkenfig Square

MEMBERS of the public are invited to the annual Christmas carol song festival in the square on Wednesday, December 21 at 7.30pm.

Sarn Community Life Centre

ON Friday, December 16, St Bride's Minor civic department will hold a carol service at 7pm with Tenovus choir.

Cefn charity collections

CEFN Gwyrdd will once again be carol singing from door to door, while rattling the charity tin on Monday, December 19.

The village is too large to visit every street, so this year it will be visiting the western end of the village meeting at Ty Isaf at 6.30pm. Everyone welcome and all will receive a song sheet, but remember to wrap up warm and bring a torch.

Carnegie House, Bridgend

ON Saturday, December 17 the British Lions Club will distribute all proceeds from the grotto to local charities.

It costs £5 per child with the opportunity to meet Santa Claus, with the choice of a quality gift, and parents to take photos.

There will also be free craft activities and story telling sessions. The grotto is open from 10am to 4pm.

Saint Bride's Church,

NEWS IN BRIEF

Councillors' surgery

THE Labour Vale and Town Councillors for Buttrills, Castletand and Court Wards Bronwen Brooks, Pamela Drake, Jeff Evans, Chris Elmore, Les Sword, Karl Khunell and Stuart Egan will hold their monthly advice surgery on Saturday, December 17 from 10am to 11am in the small community room, Barry Library, King Square. No appointment necessary.

Holy Cross concert

THERE will be a fundraising concert of 'Music In the Vale', with young singers and instrumentalists at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Wednesday, December 21 at 7.30pm.

All proceeds to Music In the Vale; refreshments available. Tickets (£10) are available at the door or call 01446 781453.

Sponsored by Watts & Morgan Estate Agents, Cowbridge. Go to www.musicinthevale.org.uk.

Llansantffraid ON Sunday, December 18 at 6pm there will be a carol service at which everyone is welcome, with mulled wine and mince pies to follow.

Christmas Eve there will be a Midnight Mass starting at 11.30pm.

Aberkenfig and District United Churches

A WALK of Witness is organised between Bethlehem Chapel, Brynnemyn to Nazareth Chapel, Bryncethin, setting off from Bethlehem chapel at 10am next Saturday, December 17.

Wesley Methodist Church, Tondu

ON Sunday, December 18 at 3pm, there will be a service with lessons and carols accompanied by the church choir.

On Christmas Eve, there is a Christingle service at 5pm. The Christmas Day service will be at 10am.

Saint David's Church, Betws

ON Christmas Eve, at 4pm, there will be a Christingle service with the children of Betws Primary School. Everyone is welcome.

On Christmas Day there is the Eucharist service at 10am.

Saint John's Church, Aberkenfig

A CELEBRATION Eucharist service will be held at 9am on Christmas Day, everyone is welcome.

On January 1, there will be a joint parish service.

THE DAY THAT LITTLE SANTA MET BIG SANTA!



Little Santa (Freddy Davies, aged 14 months), visited Big Santa in his grotto at Carnegie House, Bridgend, last week.

Lion John Davies, Freddy's grandad had wanted him to meet fellow Lions manning the grotto.

"Perhaps he'll join the club when he is older, but at the moment he appears unconcerned and quite relaxed on Santa's lap!" said grandad.

'Share the Warmth' this Christmas

BARNARDO'S Cymru and a fashion retailer have joined together to launch a coat exchange to raise money for the most disadvantaged children in Wales.

Shoppers who donate a coat to any Barnardo's store until Saturday, December 24 will receive a £10 voucher to spend on the new season's wardrobe at Evans, in-store, or online at evans.co.uk.

Coats received by Barnardo's will be re-sold or recycled to raise vital funds to help support vulnerable children, young people and families.

Sarah Crawley, director of Barnardo's Cymru explained: "The

coat exchange is a fantastic initiative and we're excited to be working with Evans. This opportunity will not only reward those who generously support Barnardo's, but help vulnerable children such as those at risk of sexual exploitation and living in care."

Fiona Ross, Evans' managing director, said: "We're delighted to be working with Barnardo's on the 'Share the Warmth' campaign this winter and hope we can raise awareness and essential funds, so Barnardo's can continue to help transform the lives of the UK's most vulnerable children."

For more information, visit evans.co.uk/stores/link and Barnardo's www.barnardos.org.uk.

Ogmore MP backs lifesaving campaign

EACH year in the UK, 30,000 people suffer a sudden cardiac arrest, but fewer than 1-in-10 survive.

As part of 'European Restart a Heart Day', Ogmore MP Chris Elmore visited The Oliver King Foundation at its launch event in Westminster to support a call for action.

He said: "I am proud to become a 'Lifesaving Defibrillator Champion' for Ogmore. It is vital that we take action to prevent any loss of life where one can be saved.

"I will be working with local schools in my constituency to fundraise and get lifesaving defibrillators in our area,

protecting our students, teachers and visitors while at school.

The Oliver King Foundation was set up following the death of 12-year-old Oliver King from a sudden cardiac arrest, which kills 12 young people every single week.

Oliver was winning a swimming race at school at the time.



Festival of Christmas trees tests imagination



The Christmas tree festival at St Mary's Church, Noltan.

DOZENS of decorated Christmas trees have been brightening up churches in the area, including a record 75 trees on display at All Saints' Church in Porthcawl.

Llantrisant celebrated by holding its 15th successful festival. Decorated trees also went on display at St Augustine's in Penarth, at St Mary's Church, Barry, and St George's Church in Cwmparc.

In Bridgend, the parish of Coity, Noltan and Brackla held its 10th festival at St Mary's Church, which was accompanied by a variety of musical and Christmas

events including a festival concert showcasing the talent of the Garage Gospel Choir.

Canon Mike Komor of Coity, Noltan and Brackla said: "Every year, various organisations including schools, businesses, charities and church groups, place a decorated tree to add to the display. People were able to vote for their favourite tree. We had some very imaginatively decorated trees, including one made from books and another from corks. Each year, we choose a different charity to support from the proceeds. This year we supported Welsh Hearts.

"We had high hopes that our 10th anniversary festival would be the biggest and best yet, and we

were not disappointed. Well over 50 organisations exhibited, nearly 1,000 people visited, and we raised £2,800 for the benefiting charity - a brilliant result."

Welsh Hearts works to place defibrillators in communities and delivers CPR and defibrillator training throughout Wales.

The Archdeacon of Morgannwg and priest-in-charge of Cwmbach, the Venerable Christopher Smith, said: "The popularity of Christmas tree festivals continues to grow and shows how alive and active our parishes are in welcoming people into our churches. Christmas tree festivals are a simple but powerful reminder of the real meaning of Christmas."

Magic in the trees at Christmas



The lights that some people think look like silver goblets.



Can you spot a reindeer in the lights at Newton roundabout?

AT Christmas time there is always magic in the air, no more so than at the Newton roundabout en route into Porthcawl.

Porthcawl Town Council have done a grand job again this year of decorating the trees on three of the Porthcawl roundabouts, particularly at Newton.

The lights there take on different images dependent on the viewer's imagination as one approaches from different directions.

Through the eye of the camera, have one set of tree lights look to me like a pot-bellied reindeer whilst the other set of decorated trees look like silver goblets, or perhaps an American Buffalo or a 20th.

Do GEM readers see anything different? Keith E Morgan Porthcawl

Who wants to build what in Bridgend, and where?

Mrs Mary Elizabeth Jenkins - 89 Heol Las, North Cornelly - Demolition of existing bungalow and erection of four linked dwellings.

Rhonda Cynon Taff Council - Llwynycelyn Farm, Hafod Lane, Porth - Request for observations: erection of two wind turbines with a tip maximum height of 125m, associated infrastructure, transformer cabin and access track, including access via public highway and across Cribin Ddu Farm and Llwynycelyn Farm.

Mr Richard Tyan - Rear of 11 Ewenny Road, Bridgend - One bedroom self-contained flat.

Mrs Katie Belcher - Unit 5, Highwayman Units, Castle View, Bridgend - Change use from office to use class D1 (chiropractic clinic).

Mrs Lynne Horgan - 238 New Road, Porthcawl - Change front garden to handstanding for one vehicle, remove front wall and drop kerb.

Mr David Edwards - 22 Heol Castell Coety, Litchard - Reduce the height of ash and sycamore trees by minimum of 50 per cent, cut back all overhanging branches.

Mr Carl Francis - 22 Verlands Way, Pencoe - Remove section of oak tree that overhangs the property.

Bromwell Properties Ltd - Llwyn Celyn, Pant y Pwllau, Coity - Alterations and two storey and single storey extensions to rear and side.

Andrew Hazell - 3 Westfield Crescent, Porthcawl - Single storey rear extension.

Dr Suresh Singh - Former Nantfyllon Surgery, 77 High Street, Nantfyllon, Maesteg - Demolish surgery and construct two four bedroom detached dwellings.

Bridgend County Borough Council - Maesteg Town Hall, Talbot Street, Maesteg - The essential front roof replacement of roof covering to stop water ingress.

Eradication of dry rot and repairs caused by roof failure.

Ms Lester and Mr Hoole - Cefn Cribbwr Farm, Farm Road, Cefn Cribbwr, Bridgend - Outdoor all-weather riding arena and four four-metre high area

lights (riding area for personal enjoyment of applicants).

CTIL & Vodafone Ltd - Land at Maesteg ATE, Station Street, Maesteg - Proposed installation of 15.0m monopole supporting three antennae, two dishes, together with associated ground-based cabinets and ancillary development thereto.

Mr Albert Jeremiah - 2 Shearwater Close, Porthcawl - External alterations and single storey rear extension.

Miss Karrie Sian - Land rear of 27 Cwrt Pant Yr Awel, Lewistown - Inclusion of land into curtilage - to be used as garden and amenity land only.

Mr R Williams and Mrs S Morey - 8 Llangwm Way, Porthcawl - Double storey side extension and single storey rear extension.

Mr Anthony Morgan - 31 Heol Cambrensis, Pyle, Bridgend - Proposed garage, utility space and wetroom and ground floor level with hobby/storage space above in roof space with dormer.

CLC 19 The Design Office - Plots 52, 53, 54, 33 and 55 Duffryn Oaks, Hendre Road, Pencoe - Plot location, slab levels, house type and external finishes to Plots 52, 53, 54, 33 and 55 revised from original approval.

Mr K Dranfield - 23 Cwrt yr Hen Ysgol, Bridgend - Extension to existing garage.

Mrs A Richards - 4 Garnwen Terrace, Nantfyllon, Maesteg - Two storey extension to provide kitchen and bedroom.

Clarke Telecom Ltd - Land at Llangewydd Road shops, Llangewydd Road, Bridgend - Proposed station development.

Mrs Rita Turrell - 105 Ty Gwyn Drive, Brackla, Bridgend - Proposed single storey extension.

KFC UK - KFC Drive-thru, Designer Outlet Village, access roads, Cefn Hirgoed, Bridgend - Respray of existing panelling to building envelope.

Safety work is welcomed

THE Vale Council's announcement that road safety improvements are to be carried out along Barry Road has been welcomed by Independent councillor Richard Bertin, who said he is pleased that the junctions of Barry Road and Chesterfield Street and Glebe Street are to be made safer for both road users and pedestrians in Barry.

glamorgan-gem.co.uk



Bridgend College health and social care students with the Cwm Calon day centre group from Maesteg.

OlympAge Games – a festival of sport for older people!



Left to right: Coun Hailey Townsend; BCBC Deputy Mayor Coun Cherie Jones; Minister for Social Services and Public Health, Rebecca Evans; Coun Phil White; Ogmogre AM Huw Irranca-Davies; BCBC corporate director of social services, Sue Cooper; Deputy Mayor's Consort Marjorie Griffiths.

MORE than 200 people came together to enjoy a carnival of sporting activities at Bridgend County Borough Council's 'OlympAge Games' event in Cefn Cribwr last week, aiming to help older people and people with disabilities to 'get moving'.

The 'Rio-inspired day' at the Bethlehem Life Centre formed part of an initiative which has been introduced by the council in local care settings to help improve physical and mental wellbeing.

With support from Sport Wales' Calls for Action programme and the Welsh Government's Intermediate Care Fund, activity leaders have been visiting care settings and coaching local people on the importance of keeping mobile with a range of games and activities.

Groups from local care homes and day centres all entered teams in the OlympAge Games, with everyone enjoying the chance to socialise and compete in events such as 'boccia', 'new-age kurling', basketball, target throw and bounce ball.

More than 50 Bridgend College health and social care students were also on hand to support the older people

and disabled people taking part.

Among those competing from Cwm Calon Day Centre team were Ivy Vickers and Eva O'Shea from Maesteg. Ivy said: "We've enjoyed every minute of it, and the Bridgend College students have been marvellous!" with Eva adding: "I think it's wonderful."

All the games have been great, and we've had a brilliant time."

Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) cabinet member for social services and early help, Coun Phil White, said: "It was really pleasing to see so many people enjoying the activities and coming together."

"We're very thankful to Sport Wales and Welsh Government for supporting us to bring the OlympAge programme back to Bridgend County Borough, and to all the partners who have made the event possible."

"We're making great strides together in making the county borough age-friendly and inclusive, and are committed to giving older people and disabled people plenty of opportunities to be socially, mentally and physically active within our communities."

Coun White added: "Hosting this event is another step towards transforming our day centres and care homes



Participants from Foxtroy House at the OlympAge games.

to improve opportunities for those who use them."

It is hoped that the OlympAge Games will now become an annual event.

Also in attendance at the OlympAge games event was the Minister for Social Services and

Public Health, Rebecca Evans, together with Ogmogre AM Huw Irranca-Davies; Deputy Mayor Coun Cherie Jones; cabinet member for social services and early help, Coun Phil White and the cabinet member for wellbeing

and future generations, Coun Hailey Townsend.

For more information about OlympAge, contact the council's sport, play and active wellbeing department on 01656 815215 or email apyd@bridgend.gov.uk.

Hopes that fostering song might top the Christmas hit parade

LOCAL 'child stars' are aiming for a hit this Christmas with a song about fostering.

Released by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), 'Now is the time' was written and recorded by both young people in care, and sons and daughters of foster carers, to highlight the need

for more foster carers.

The track was created via a workshop run by Community Music Wales, before Bridgend College student Lukas Amosovas remixed it to add the final touches.

The song was released this week on YouTube and SoundCloud in a bid to compete for the most played song over

Christmas and can be downloaded free by searching for the song title 'Now Is The Time' or visiting the council's YouTube channel (BridgendCBC).

BCBC hopes the song, and the publicity surrounding its release, will raise the profile of foster care and encourage more people to think about fostering.

Llangewydd pupils rise to challenge of a DIY panto!



CHILDREN from Llangewydd Primary school performed their own unique production of panto favourite Jack and The Beanstalk at Bridgend library on Saturday.

Class J6 worked with Awen Trust's children's development librarian, Diana Apperley and class teacher, Mrs Card, as part of a literacy and digital project which encouraged the children to write their own lines.

Children responded to the challenge with great enthusiasm, working on all aspects of the production with minimal intervention from their supervisors.

Claire Jones and her partner, Justin, from local florist The Bee Orchard, kindly created and supplied a stunning beanstalk centrepiece.

After a successful dress rehearsal on Friday morning, which all of Llangewydd year 4 attended, J6 were ready for their big performance during

the usual Saturday afternoon story time slot at Bridgend library.

The event attracted record numbers, with over 100 people filling up the library to support the children and enjoy the performance.

There was a fantastic atmosphere generated with the audience joining in at all the right prompts and singing along with the carols.

The children really outdid themselves, dealing with nerves and worries in a professional, mature manner that made everyone proud.

Lauren, who played Jack's hard-done-by mother, wants to be an actress when she grows up and was thrilled to be part of the experience.

Father Christmas showed up after the children had finished singing 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' to give out sweets and conduct the raffle. All children attending the event were entitled to a free DVD loan.

DA

'Double excellent' inspection report for Bryntirion school

PUPILS, staff and governors at Bryntirion Comprehensive School in Bridgend are celebrating an early Christmas present after the school received a rare 'double excellent' inspection report from Estyn.

Both the school's current performance and its prospects for improvement have been judged at the highest possible standard of 'excellent'.

Inspectors praised Bryntirion's 'outstanding ethos', commenting "consistently good teaching in lessons ensures that pupils are highly engaged and motivated to learn."

However, Estyn

inspectors have made two recommendations for improvement. The first one is to improve the quality of written feedback to pupils and their responses to it, and the second recommendation is to improve arrangements to develop pupils' Welsh language skills.

The school's current performance is rated so highly as pupils are making exceptional progress.

Headteacher Nick Brain said: "We are absolutely delighted with the outcome of the Estyn inspection. We are incredibly proud of the achievements of our students and are extremely pleased that Estyn have acknowledged the hard work, commitment, and exceptionally positive relationships within our school community."

"Our young people excel in and out of the classroom and Bryntirion is an outstanding and vibrant school. We are also excited about the future and particularly as we have recently agreed a partnership with Sony through the Careers Wales Business Class initiative. This is a wonderful opportunity to engage with a high performing business partner in the local area."

Inspectors reported that the school's prospects for improvement are excellent because the

headteacher and senior team provide exceptional strategic leadership.

There is "a clear vision to develop a culture of high expectations in all aspects of the school's work," and the line management responsibilities are clear and robust, ensuring that teachers and managers at all levels are fully accountable for their work.

Headteacher Nick Brain said: "We are absolutely delighted with the outcome of the Estyn inspection. We are incredibly proud of the achievements of our students and are extremely pleased that Estyn have acknowledged the hard work, commitment, and exceptionally positive relationships within our school community."

"Our young people excel in and out of the classroom and Bryntirion is an outstanding and vibrant school. We are also excited about the future and particularly as we have recently agreed a partnership with Sony through the Careers Wales Business Class initiative. This is a wonderful opportunity to engage with a high performing business partner in the local area."

St Athan Golf Club members look back on a successful year at presentation evening

AT its recent presentation evening at St Athan Golf Club, the proceedings began with the club captain, Craig Sherman assisted by the ladies captain, Michelle Bligh, presenting trophies and awards to the junior section.

Craig, in his dual role as lead junior organiser, outlined to the membership how strong the junior section has now become and explained that this is down to the dedicated volunteers who willingly give up their free time.

St Athan Golf Club has recently gained junior accreditation from the Golf Union of Wales which says: "Clubs gaining accreditation clearly demonstrate a dedication to fostering the game at junior and beginner levels".

After only taking up the sport this season, Lili Callard had a smile as broad as her face when it was announced that she was the Elderflower Salver recipient, an award presented to the junior who always tries their hardest, shows extreme dedication, conducts themselves impeccably and is a pleasure to have in the section.

All of the championship matches were contested earlier in the year and the juniors' battle saw two extremely talented golfers come head-to-head. Louie John accepted his runners-up trophy, and he was the first to congratulate Ralph O'Carroll on being named the 2016 Junior Club Champion.

Gary Bohun, in his capacity as chairman of play then outlined the rest of the evening's agenda. The ladies awards would be announced by their competitions member, Steph Bonnar and presented by their club captain, and the club president, Paul Lindsay would present the men's trophies.

The most sought-after awards each year are undoubtedly the championship titles and this year the members had the pleasure of witnessing two outstanding matches, between Erin Allison and Michelle Bligh in the ladies and Craig Sherman against Steve Bacon in the men's. Erin and Craig were competing to retain the titles from 2015 and they both produced some truly impressive golf to once again be champions.

There are two awards where the members do not know the recipients until they are announced. The first is the 'club person of the year' and the club committee voted JWG Morgan for the unseen work he has put in over a number of years in his role as chairman director.

The playing committee have the decision on the Kyle Trophy winner. This is awarded to the golfer who achieves a significant handicap reduction and who is a good example both on and off the course. The committee had to decide between three members, Louie John, Keith Lewis and Luke Sloan, and after deliberation the decision was taken to award the trophy to the player who nearly gave up the sport last year – Keith Lewis.

A full list of competition winners can be found on the club's website www.rafstathango.co.uk. St Athan Golf Club caters for green fee players but particularly welcomes new social and playing members. For further information contact the club manager 01446 751043



Lili Callard.



ABOVE: Jon Pengelly, Paul Lindsay and Stewart Thomas



ABOVE: Keith Lewis (far right) is congratulated by his family.



ABOVE: Paul Lindsay with Gary Bohun.



ABOVE: Izzy Thomas.



Club person of the year, JWG Morgan.



ABOVE: Dilys Hurley, Carol Morgan and Craig Sherman.



ABOVE: The two club champions, Erin Allison and Craig Sherman.



ABOVE: Junior champion Ralph O'Carroll with lady captain Michelle Bligh.

Brian Lee's most memorable Welsh Grand National winners: BONANZA BOY, 1989

MARTIN PIPE'S Bonanza Boy made Welsh Grand National history in 1989 by becoming the first dual winner to win in successive years.

The last dual winner Limonadi, trained by the Vale's Posy Lewis, won in 1959 and 1961, while three times winner Lacatoi had been successful in 1935, 1937 and 1939 when the race had been held at Cardiff's Ely Racecourse, which closed in 1939.

The only other dual winners – Razorbill had won in 1908 and 1911 and Miss Balscadden in 1926 and 1928 – had to wait three and two years respectively before winning the race a second time and that was when the race was held at Cardiff.

Backers of Bonanza Boy, who started a 15/8 favourite, must have been a little bit worried when on the first circuit he could be seen scratching along in mid-division as Stearsby and Remedy The Malady led the field a merry dance on ground that could only be described as stamina sapping.

However, Bonanza Boy's jockey, Peter Scudamore, whose motto was 'never say die' didn't give up the chase and gradually eased his way to the leaders.

Six fences from the finish, disaster nearly struck as Bonanza Boy, who was not much bigger than a polo pony, was badly hampered by the fall of Remedy The Malady which caused him to swerve and lose six or seven lengths.

Undeterred, Bonanza Boy

galloped on through the mud and taking the lead approaching the fourth last fence, he went on to win by 15 lengths from Cool Ground who beat Charter Hardware by half-a-length for second place. Ghofar finished fourth.

Little Polvier, who 10 months earlier, had won the Aintree National, looked as though he needed the race and struggled home in seventh and last place.

Cool Ground under Luke Harvey went on to win the race in 1990.

Brian Lee is the author of *The Welsh Grand National – From Deerstalker to Emperor's Choice* published by The History Press at £14.99.

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Family Notices

WENDON Luke

Passed away peacefully on 6th December 2016. Beloved husband of Linda, devoted father to Jonathan and Julia and adored and dedicated husband to the late Jean.

Funeral service to be held on Friday, 16th December 2016 at 12 noon at Cardiff & Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium, Port Road, Barry, CF62 9PX. No flowers by request but donations would be welcomed for Cancer Research UK. All enquires to Parkman Funeral Home, 2 Waunrhudd Road, Tonyrefail, CF39 8EN, 01443 552101.

EDMONDS Eileen Veronica

Peacefully on December 6 at the University Hospital of Wales surrounded by her loving family, Eileen, devoted wife to Kenneth. A much loved mum, nan and great nanny Pip.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Eileen is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her funeral service at St Helen's RC Church, Barry on Friday, December 16 at 9.45am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Family flowers only, donations if, desired may, be made at the service to support Ty Hapus, Barry in memory of Eileen.

GALTON Pauline

Peacefully at home on December 11, Pauline, devoted wife of Michael (Mickey), beloved mum to Janet, Paul & Sarah. An adored nanna of Amiena, Jamel, Mohammed, Rhys, Sabina, Jessica and Lydia, also a cherished great nanna. *She will be greatly missed by all her family and many friends.*

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, Barry until her service at Barry Cemetery Chapel on Thursday, December 22 at 2pm, followed by interment. Floral tributes may be sent to the funeral home. Colourful clothing may be worn. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis, 01446 407962.

Acknowledgements

WILDE Alban Edward

The family would like to sincerely thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and sympathy following the sad loss of Alban.

Our thanks to Reverend Anthony Beer for ensuring the service of thanksgiving was a fitting celebration of Alban's life, to all who attended the service and to W. James and Sons for the funeral arrangements.

MORGAN David Rees (New Barn, Flemingston)

The family would like to express their sincere thanks to all the relatives, friends and neighbours for their cards, floral tributes and messages of sympathy received during the recent passing of David.

Special thanks to all that attended the funeral, Reverend Melanie Prince for conducting the service in a professional, personal and caring manner together with Lyndsay Ellis, Vale Funeral Service. Also special thanks to Cowbridge Medical Centre, Doctors and District Nurses, Marie Curie and Macmillan nurses, St David's Podiatry, Heulwen Ward in the UWH, Velindre Hospital and finally the RABI (Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution).

SAINSBURY Eira

Peacefully on November 18, at the amazing age of 100, Eira, previously of Phyllis Street, Barry Island, passed away at Bellavista Nursing Home. Beloved mum to the late Anthony, dear mum-in-law to Ann and cherished Gu to Sian, Baz, Ollie and Rosie. We'll all miss you x

As in life, Eira has continued to think of others by donating herself for anatomical examination at Cardiff University.

BARRY Kevin Martin

Passed away peacefully at The Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth on Saturday, 10th December. Adoring husband to Sue, proud father to Tom, Hannah and Emily and much loved and spoiled brother of Eileen and Robert. Will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by all of his friends and family, including nieces and nephews, great nieces and great nephews, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law and particularly by Sue's mum, Moyra.

We'll always have the memories.

Funeral service at Thornhill Crematorium on Wednesday, 21st December at 2pm; all are welcome. A wake will be held from 3.30pm at Cowbridge Rugby Club. Please bring a story. Family flowers only. Donations, in lieu of flowers, can be made to Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth. Donation envelopes will be available on the day.

SADLER Susan (née Messer)

Peacefully on December 11th at Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth with her devoted partner Mark at her bedside, Susan, much loved mum of Liam, Carla and their families.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Susan is in the care of The Vale Funeral Service, Barry until her service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry on Wednesday, December 21 at 12pm. Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired may be made at the service or via Susan's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk where you are also welcome to leave your personal memories and messages.

All donations to support Marie Curie Hospice. Family request that colourful clothing be worn, to reflect on Susan's character and personality.

TAYLOR Eileen Margaret (Née Elward)

Peacefully on December 8 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Eileen of Llantwit Major, beloved wife of the late Tony, dearly loved mother of Suzanne, Sian and Mark, much loved grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Wednesday, December 21, service 2.45pm at St. Illtud's Church, followed by cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 4pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Alzheimers Society, c/o J James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhooose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

EVANS Meirion

Suddenly on December 7 at his home in Gwern-y-Steeple, Peterston-s-Ely, Meirion, beloved wife of Tina.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Thursday, December 22, service 12 noon at Trehill Presbyterian Church, St. Nicholas, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 1.15pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Rotary Foundation, or Marie Curie Cancer Care, (please make all cheques payable to W. James & Sons Charity Account), c/o J. James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhooose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

SEWELL Eric

Peacefully on Saturday, 3rd December 2016 at Llandough Hospital. Much loved father, grandfather and great grandfather.

He will be greatly missed by all his family and many friends.

Funeral service at 12 noon on Wednesday, 4th January 2017 at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Cancer Research UK, Velindre Hospital, Whitechurch, Cardiff, CF14 2TL.

JONES Ken

Very peacefully on December 10 at Llandough hospital, Ken (John), aged 86 years of Wenvoe Terrace, Barry. Beloved husband of the late Gloria Eileen. A loved father of Keith, Ian, Neal and father-in-law of Dawn and Rose. Cherished grandfather of Leanne, Matthew and great grandfather of Jessica. Dear brother of Trevor. *Ken will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends.*

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral on Thursday, December 22. Service in the chapel at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry. Family flowers only by request.

WALKER Kenneth (Ken)

Suddenly on December 5, Ken of Court Road, Barry, passed away at the University Hospital of Wales. Ken was a husband, father, grandfather, uncle and dear friend to many.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the funeral service in the Chapel of Rest on Tuesday, December 20 at 11am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

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In Memory

RICKETTS Elizabeth (Liz)

20.6.1958 – 14.12.2015

One year today, always in my thoughts.
Love Mitch xxx

BELLION Paul

17/12/2015

*We thought of you with love today
But that is nothing new
We thought about you yesterday
And days before that too
We think of you in silence
We often speak your name
All we have are memories
As your picture in a frame
Your memory is our keepsake
With which we'll never part
God has you in his keeping
We have you in our hearts*

Anne (wife), Rachel, Samantha,
Richard (children) and all his grandchildren
xxx

IN MEMORY OF Richard Harrhy

24.4.58 - 14.12.15

A whole year has passed, no kisses, no smiles from you, just wonderful memories.

Not a day goes by we
don't think of you.

Sue, Matt and James .xxx

JENKINS David 1937-2015

Your memory is our keepsake with which we'll never part. God has you in His keeping, We have you in our hearts.

God bless, love always,
Gwyneth and family

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Public Notices

LICENSING ACT 2003 SECTION 17 (5)
Notice of Application for a Premises License

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT an application has been made to Bridgend County Borough Council (the Licensing Authority) for a **PREMISES LICENSE**

To permit licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on, on or from the premises shown below.

Details of the application may be inspected between the hours of: Monday to Thursday 0830 to 1700 hours and Friday 0830 to 1630 hours at Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB or by visiting the authority's website: www.bridgend.gov.uk.

Any responsible authority or any other person may make representations in respect of the application, which must be submitted, in writing, to the following address before the date shown below: Licensing Section, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

NAME OF APPLICANT:
THE BROOMWAGON CAFE

NAME AND POSTAL ADDRESS OF THE PREMISES: 11 NEW ROAD, PORTHCRAWL, CF36 5DL

STATEMENT OF INTENDED LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES: (1)
TO SUPPLY ALCOHOL & PLAY RECORDED MUSIC.

DATE BY WHICH REPRESENTATIONS MUST BE MADE: This notice remains in force from and including the day after the giving of this notice to the licensing authority, namely 6th December 2016 for 28 consecutive days

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000

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PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern:

I PARMJIT DHESI do hereby give notice that I have applied to the Licensing Authority at Vale of Glamorgan Council for a variation to a Premises Licence at the address 369-371 Barry Road, CF62 8HG, this to include:

The retail sale of alcohol and opening hours Sun-Sat 07:00 - 23:00

Any person wishing to make representations to this application may do so by writing to The Licensing Team, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU. Not later than 28 days after the date of this notice (as below). Representations received after this date will not be considered.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000. Dated 08/12/2016

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Seasons Greetings

Sue & Rob Thomas
of Llantwit Major

Wish all our friends and family a joyous and blessed xmas tide preceding to a most Happy and Healthy 2017.

Once again this year we are donating to Ty Ffapan and the RNTI in lieu of Xmas tide cards xxx

Mary Ellard

Mary wishes all her friends and relatives best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

In lieu of cards, Mary is sending donations to her favourite charities.

LOOK WHO'S 50!
* on 15 December 2016 *

'The DIY King'

Andrew Goodland

50

All our love for a Happy 50th! Mum, Dad, Melissa, Auntie Kath, Annwen, Ffion & Llinos xxx

Glenys Pryce

Happy 80th Birthday
on 19th December

Lots of love
Leighton and Beth
xxx

Season's Greetings

Sheila and family wish to send Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all family, friends and neighbours, and to thank them all for support given throughout the past 18 months.

We will be making a donation in lieu of cards to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Mary & John Bacon

Would like to wish their family and friends a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

Jessica Mary Evans

Happy 21st Birthday!
17/12/1995

All our love
Mam, Dad, your little sister Megan and your babies Harley and Leia
xxx

Michelle Esposito

Happy Birthday
on 19th December

Lots of love from Gino
xxx

Barbara & John Marsh

would like to wish family, friends & neighbours, also Care in Wales and their carers,

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

Brunie Burden
of Llantwit Major

Brunie would like to wish all friends, neighbours, her support teams in Eryl Surgery, Boots the Chemist, the Chocolate Box, the Flower Shop, Spar Newsagents and Faithful Carers old and new a Very Happy Christmas, with special thanks for all of your support since my recent hospitalisation.

Public Notices

The Vale of Glamorgan Council
(BROCK STREET, CARUW CLOSE
LYDSTEP ROAD BARRY (PART))
(ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY)
ORDER 2016

The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), and of all other enabling powers intends in not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below: -

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location	1/ Brock Street, Barry from its junction with Cowbridge Road for a distance of 30m in a northerly direction. Divisions via the remaining open section of Brock Street, Coldbrook Road and Cowbridge Street. 2/ Caruwr Close, Barry from its junction with Lydstep Road for a distance of 20m in a north easterly direction. Divisions for traffic will be available via a temporary road that will be constructed to the side of the work area. 3/ Lydstep Road, Barry will be closed between its junctions with Redberth Close and Solva Close, access for residents will be maintained from one side of the closure or the other. Divisions for traffic will be in place via Collard Crescent, Dylan Road, Treharne Road, St Brides Way, Ramsey Road, and Skomer Road.
Reason	To allow Coldbrook Flood Management improvement works to take place.
Duration	From 7.00am on Wednesday 4th January 2017 for a maximum Period of 18 Months.
NB:	Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.
Dated this 15th day of December 2016	
	M. E. Punter, Director of Environment & Housing Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg
(BROCK STREET, CARUW CLOSE
LYDSTEP ROAD Y BARRI
(RHANNOL)) (CAU FFORDD)
(DROS DRO) 2016

Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, wrth arfer ei bwerau dan Adran 14 Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 (fel y'i diwygiwyd) yn bwriadu, ymhen heb fod yn llai na saith niwrnod o ddyddiad yr Hysbysiad hwn, gwneud Gorchymyn a fydd yn gwneud yr hyn a ddisgrifir yn yr atodlenni isod: -

ATOLDEN 1

1. Ni fydd unrhyw berson yn achosi neu'n caniatáu i gerbyd modur deithio yn y lleoliad a nodir yn Atolden 2 isod.

ATOLDEN 2

Lleoliad	1/ Brock Street, Y Barri o'r gyffordd â Heol y Bont-faen am 30m i'r gogledd. Dargyfeiriadau drwy weddill rhan agored Brock Street, Coldbrook Road a Heol y Bont-faen. 2/ Caruwr Close, Y Barri o'r gyffordd â Lydstep Road am 20m i'r gogledd-ddwyrain. Dargyfeiriadau i draffig ar gael ar ffordd dros dro a adeiliedir ar safle'r ardal waith. 3/ Lydstep Road, Y Barri ar gau rhwng y gyffordd â Redberth Close a Solva Close, sicrhwyd mynediad i drigolion ar un ochr i'r ffordd wedi'i chau neu'r llall. Dargyfeiriadau traffig ar waith drwy Collard Crescent, Dylan Road, Treharne Road, St Brides Way, Ramsey Road, a Skomer Road.
Rheswm	I wneud gwaith gwella ar Reoli Llifogydd ar Coldbrook.
Hyd	O 7.00am ar ddydd Mercher 4 Ionawr 2017 am hyd at 18 mis.
DS:	Sicrhwyd mynediad i gerddwyr bob amser.
Dyddiedig 15 Rhagfyr 2016	
	M. E. Punter, Cyfarwyddwr yr Amgylchedd a Thai, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Canolfan yr Alpau, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

Articles For Sale

Season's Greetings

WATSON

Chris & family would like to send BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS & THE NEW YEAR to all family, friends & neighbours. Thanks also for all the lovely cards & wishes for my recent 80th birthday. We will be making a donation in lieu of cards to Parkinson in memory of Brian.

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For Motors - £24 inc. VAT for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Craig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Adverts must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. Sorry no refunds are given.

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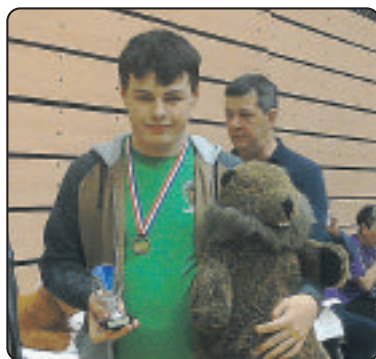
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BARRY'S BUSY BEAVERS!

IT'S been a great year for the Barry Beavers Swimming Club (see report of recent triumphs on page 40) and these photos catalogue the highs and the, well, even more highs of a busy 2016. The swimming club, a registered charity, is run for adults and children with disabilities or long-term health conditions. It meets each Saturday at the Barry Leisure Centre between 3.30pm and 4.45pm.



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FESTIVE CHEER FOR PENARTH HOCKEY TEAM

PENARTH 7, YATE 1
AFTER back-to-back away days with mixed results, Penarth returned to Stanwell with high hopes of maintaining their unbeaten home run into the winter break.

After the early goal rush of the previous week, Penarth's expectations had sky-rocketed and the side became unnecessarily impatient when similar success failed to come. That frustration subsequently affected the Bears' play and some sloppy possession at the back gifted Yate a simple through ball and tap in to take a surprise lead.

That, however, only served to refocus the Penarth team, and they quickly returned to the simple passing game that had paid dividends during the

opening exchanges.

Having settled themselves, the possession would eventually lead to an equaliser, as a robust challenge from captain Tom Haran led to Yate committing the cardinal sin of not playing the whistle, standing like statues as Penarth flew upfield before Tim Urlings finished off with an audacious lob over the out-straining keeper.

With that, the proverbial floodgates opened, and a second goal blitz in as many weeks blew away their shell-shocked opponents.

At the centre of the onslaught was Ben Croxall, who scored an unbelievable three-minute hat-trick, the first stemming from some neat interplay between Haran and Usman Dhami before Croxall was released through the middle, beating the Yate defence before smashing his shot into the bottom corner.

Before Yate could learn their lesson, Croxall had again weaved through the back line and slotted past the exposed keeper, and he would round out his hat-trick by firing a penalty stroke low to the hapless keeper's right to give Penarth a 4-1 lead at the interval.

Croxall carried on from his first half hour, bagging Penarth's fifth from a penalty corner before Urlings regained scoring duties to claim his second hat-trick in as many weeks as they completed a comfortable 7-1 victory.

Going into the four-week hiatus, Penarth sit just two points off top spot in Conference North after a good first half to the season and appear to have hit form at the perfect time, leaving them in a strong position to kick on in the New Year and push for back-to-back promotion.

BRIDGEND A 4, PENARTH A 1

The second XI travelled to Bridgend knowing the victor in their match-up would go into the Christmas break in the promotion places, but anticipating another hard-fought encounter with a side that has occupied second spot from the start of the season.

Despite persistent rain dampening the occasion, it was the visitors who started quicker, grabbing an early goal through Sam Salisbury following a defence-splitting pass from left-half Andrew Hornby. The strike only seemed to wake Bridgend up, however, and the hosts quickly took the ascendancy, putting pressure on a Penarth defence that allowed themselves to be distracted by some of the umpiring decisions.

Although the back line resisted Bridgend's pressure for a while, an equaliser looked increasingly likely, and came midway through the

half after a penalty corner was recycled long enough to free up players at the far post. Buoyed by drawing level, the home side took the lead shortly after, again following a penalty corner decision that caused some consternation amongst the defence.

The Bears continued to feel aggrieved that, despite several infringements in the 'D', not a single penalty corner came their way and the lack of set-piece opportunities combined with growing frustration to derail the visitors' effort.

Penarth twice found the back of the net with the score at 2-1, only to see both 'goals' ruled out, one for an infringement in the build-up and the other as the ball apparently caught a forward's foot on its way over the line with the keeper already beaten.

As time ticked away, Penarth pressed increasingly higher up the field in search of at least an equaliser but, with virtually all of the Bears in the Bridgend half, the home side were able to hit them on the counter.

Penarth switched to a three-man defence for the final 10 minutes in the hope of conjuring something with an extra man going forward, but were again undone by a Bridgend break to leave the final score at a flattering 4-1 to the home side.

The defeat sees the seconds go into the Christmas break occupying fourth place in De Cymru 1, six points off the promotion places with a tough opening to the New Year next up.

SWANSEA CITY C 1, PENARTH B 7

Penarth started strongly and, having taken the game to their hosts, were a goal to the good in short order.

With both Chris McCarthy and Will Romain available for the side, chances on goal were frequent and plentiful, with McCarthy and captain Dave Watkins feasting on the opportunities that came their way.

Meanwhile, the rare counters from the Swansea half were ably dealt with by the robust defence of Simon Wilkinson, Rob Harrison, Freddy Thomas and Richard Cousins. As a result, goalkeeper Mark Harris was called upon infrequently but, when the door was knocked, there was certainly no room at his inn.

With the visitors reaching the interval with a comfortable lead, captain Watkins' team talk unsurprisingly focused on keeping a clean sheet while adding more at the other end to pad an already comfortable goal difference ahead of the Christmas break.

The second period, however, proved to be a tighter affair, but Penarth continued to find chinks in the Swansea armour thanks to some expansive play,

ably assisted by Dave Thomas and the returning Matt Noble, and the win was sealed well before Swansea bagged a consolation goal.

Amid a four-goal haul for the skipper, and a brace from the influential McCarthy, the highlight of the day was surely the sight of Mark Robinson grabbing a goal.

PENARTH C 0, SWANSEA UNIVERSITY C 2

The fourth XI ended the first half of their return to action by entertaining their counterparts from Swansea University in a top versus bottom clash in De Cymru 3.

Steady defence from the rapidly-improving Rhys Meddins and solid Morgan Salisbury ensured goalless parity at the break but, having avoided conceding an early goal at the start of the game, Penarth did exactly the opposite in the early moments of the second half.

The ball was lost too easily in midfield and, without anyone tracking back, the Swansea central midfielder was able to drive unchallenged towards the Penarth 'D'. Having drawn one Penarth defender, the ball was slipped to a now unmarked forward whose sharp finish into the far corner gave man-of-the-match Williams no chance.

Despite the setback, the 'C-siders' refused to fold, but the exertions of the first half coupled with worsening conditions meant they could make little impact on the younger, fitter students. The refusal to go quietly, however, meant that the visitors were only able to extend their lead by one goal.

The final whistle saw Penarth having to accept a 2-0 defeat where, only 35 minutes previously, they were confidently looking at being the first side to take anything from the unbeaten division leaders, and it is testament to the progress being made that the satisfaction of holding their visitors for so long was tinged with disappointment in not getting at least a draw.

With no league matches scheduled until January, players from all four Penarth sides will come together for the now-traditional 'Turkeys' game between under-35s and over-35s sides at Stanwell school (noon start).

The club would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of its supporters - including sponsors, media and those who braved the sidelines throughout the season - for their involvement over the past 12 months.

Anyone interested in joining the club at senior or youth level can contact club secretary Dave Stevens (d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

CL

Harriers impress at meeting

BARRY and Vale Harriers Athletic Club took part in the Gwent Cross Country League at Blaize Castle Bristol on December 3.

Results: Novice girls Eloise Goffin, 54, 8.09; girls under-13 Gweno Goode, 20, 10.34; girls under-15 Fiona Spence, 47, 16.40; Amy Blake, 62, 19.55; girls under-17 Megan Blake, 24, 27.20.

Special mention to Eloise Goffin who improved her position from 94 to 54 and her time from 8.52 to 8.09. Also Megan Blake who improved her position from 25 to 24,

and her time from 28.46 to 27.20.

In the Gwent cross country league meeting at Brecon leisure centre on November 12, the following results were recorded - Novice boys Saxon Dyer, 16, 6.25; Joe Ray 67, 7.09.

Under-13 boys Ben Ray, 34, 11.31; Novice girls Moli Lyons, 10, 11.26; Evie Watkins 24, 12.08; Libby Mckenny 62, 13.24; Leah Smith 84, 14.59. Girls under-15 Fiona Spence 47, 16.40; Amy Blake 62, 19.55. Under-17 girls Megan Blake 25, 28.46.

We would like to again thank the parents, athletes and coaches for making these events possible.

PG

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14 FORD B-Max 1.0 Titanium In blazer blue, 18,000 miles, under ford warranty**£9,495**

59 MERCEDES C180 CGI Blue Efficiency SE Auto In palladium silver, only 38,000 miles, bluetooth, p/s etc**£9,495**

12 MINI Countryman Cooper 1.6 Diesel All 4 In white with black roof, chilli pack etc, 78,000 miles 4x4 at**£8,995**

62 SUZUKI Kizashi 2.4 Sport Automatic In silver, 25,000 miles, Sports Saloon**£8,995**

62 VAUXHALL Insignia 2.0 Diesel SE Nav Automatic In very berry with black trim, 57,000 miles**£8,995**

61 NISSAN Juke Tekna 1.6 DIG-T In met silver, 37,000 miles with sat-nav**£8,995**

61 SKODA Yeti 2.0 Diesel SE+TDI 4x4 In pacific blue, 77,000 miles, 1 owner**£8,995**

13 KIA CEED 2 1.6 CRDi Auto In silver, 34,000 mile diesel hatch**REDUCED TO £8,495**

62 VOLKSWAGEN Jetta 1.6 Diesel Automatic Blue Motion SE In met-grey, 55,000 miles, 1 owner**£8,495**

14 RENAULT Clio 1.5 DCI Dynamique Media Nav 5-Dr In silver, 39,000 miles, free road tax**REDUCED TO £7,995**

63 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2 Match 5-Dr In silver, 10,000 miles, 1 owner**£7,995**

62 CITROEN DS3 D Sport Plus 1.6 THP In white with black roof, 48,000 miles, full leather trim**£7,995**

12 MINI Cooper 1.6 In white silver with black roof, 23,000 miles**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £7,995**

12 VAUXHALL Insignia 2.0 CDTi Exclusive Diesel Estate In silver, 43,000 miles**£7,995**

10 SKODA Yeti 1.2 TSI SE In aqua blue, 46,000 miles, practical hatch**£7,995**

09 MAZDA MX5 1.8i Roadster Coupe In true red, 48,000 miles, solid roof convertible**£7,995**

13 PEUGEOT 3008 Aless HDi 5-Dr In met red, 29,000 miles**£7,695**

63 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 SE 5-Dr In white, 29,000 miles, a/c alloys etc**£7,695**

14 VAUXHALL Adam Glam 1.4 In very berry with cream roof, 25,000 miles, 1 owner, bluetooth, pan roof etc**£7,595**

64 SUZUKI Swift 1.2 SZL 3-Dr In black with white roof, 19,000 miles, 1 owner**£7,495**

62 SUZUKI Swift Sport 1.6 In met-red, 24,000 miles, 1 owner, very sporty**£7,495**

14 FORD Fiesta Zetec 3-Dr In met blue, 1242cc, outstanding car, 22,000 miles**£6,995**

63 VAUXHALL Zafira Exclusiv 1.6 In royal blue, 26,000 miles, very reliable 7 seater family car**£6,995**

63 FORD Fiesta 1.5 TDCi Zetec 3-Dr In black, 56,000 miles, 1 owner, free road tax**£6,995**

12 MERCEDES A160 Blue-Efficiency Avant Garde SE In met blue, 54,000 miles**£6,995**

12 FORD Focus 1.6 Titanium 5-Dr In silver, 70,000 miles, nice example**£6,995**

11 CITREON C4 VTR 1.6 HDi Automatic In silver, 33,000 miles with panoramic roof**£6,995**

60 MERCEDES B160 Blue-Efficiency Sport In black, 57,000 miles, amg alloys, bluetooth etc**REDUCED BY £500 TO £6,995**

60 PEUGEOT 5008 Sport 1.6 Diesel 7-Seater In met-grey, 58,000 miles**£6,995**

10 VOLVO C30 R-Design 2.0 Diesel In met grey, 68,000 mile coupe**£6,795**

62 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 5-Dr In white, 32,000 miles, with a/c alloys etc**£6,495**

12 MERCEDES A160 Blue-Efficiency Avant Garde SE In met blue, 54,000 miles, fantastic value**£6,495**

11 SKODA Octavia 1.4 TSI Elegance 5-Dr In silver, 48,000 miles, 2 owners**£6,495**

62 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 3-Dr In silver, 20,000 miles, with a/c alloys etc**£6,295**

66 SUZUKI Celerio SZ2 1.0 5-Dr In white, only 675 miles, one owner, low insurance**£5,995**

64 RENAULT Zoe Dynamique Intens 5-Dr Automatic In white, 10,000 miles, 1 owner, electric hatch**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £5,995**

63 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Energy 3-Dr In white, 20,000 miles, one owner**£5,995**

62 SKODA Rapid SE TSI 5-Dr In white, 59,958 miles, very nice example at**£5,995**

61 CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi Style In white with black roof, 73,000 miles, diesel, free road tax**£5,995**

60 SEAT Leon 1.2 TSI 'S' 5-Dr In black, 43,000 miles, Good looking car**£5,995**

59 MINI Cooper 1.6 Convertible In pure silver, 68,000 miles**REDUCED BY £1000 TO £5,995**

09 VOLVO C30 R-Design SE 2.0 Diesel Automatic In black, 71,000 miles**£5,995**

08 SUZUKI Grand Vitara 1.9 Diesel DDiS 5-Dr In met sand, 53,000 miles, 4x4 at**£5,995**

60 HYUNDAI i30 Comfort 1.6 Diesel Estate In met-grey, 30,000 miles, 1 owner**£5,795**

14 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 Excite Ecoflex 5-Dr In red, 34,000 miles, £30 road tax**£5,495**

61 RENAULT Clio 1.6 GT Line VVTi Automatic In blue, 16,000 miles, with sat-nav**£5,495**

11 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Auto Exclusive 5-Dr In silver, 51,000 miles**£5,495**

10 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Edge Automatic 5-Dr In mulberry metallic, 41,000 miles**£5,495**

09 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 3-Dr Automatic In hot magenta, 53,000 miles**£5,495**

13 CITROEN C1 Connexion 3-Dr 1.0 In met gun metal, only 10,000 miles, ultra modern car, free road tax**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995**

61 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 SE Copa 3-Dr In white, 62,000 miles, 1 owner**£4,995**

11 MAZDA 2 Sport 1.5 3-Dr In spirited green, 74,000 miles, very nice throughout**£4,995**

10 HYUNDAI i20 Comfort 1.4 Automatic 5-Dr In red, 38,000 miles**£4,995**

56 SUZUKI Grand Vitara 1.6 3-Dr In black, 69,000 miles, 2 owners 4x4 at**£4,995**

60 FORD Fiesta 1.6 Diesel Zetec 5-Dr In black, 85,000 miles, £20 road tax**£4,495**

09 FORD Focus CC 2.0 Diesel 3 In silver, 60,000 miles, 1 owner, convertible**£4,495**

10 RENAULT Megane Dynamique 1.6 5-Dr In extreme blue, 57,000 miles, bluetooth, alloys etc**£4,295**

60 CITROEN C1 VTR+ 5-Dr In red, 46,000 miles, low insurance and road tax**£3,995**

09 SEAT Ibiza 1.2S 3-Dr In nayara blue, 55,000 miles, low insurance**£3,995**

08 CITROEN C4 Picasso 1.6 Diesel VTR Auto In met muave, 85,000 mile 7-seater**£3,995**

10 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Dynamique TomTom 5-Dr In red, 76,000 miles with sat-nav**£3,695**

09 FORD Focus 2.0 TD 136 Zetec Automatic Estate In met-blue, 102,000 miles, excellent condition**£3,695**

07 PEUGEOT 207CC 1.6 Automatic In silver with black leather, 31,000 mile convertible at .. **£3,695**

62 SUZUKI Alto 1.0 SZ3 5-Dr In silver, 60,000 miles, free road tax, low insurance**£3,495**

61 CITROEN C1 1.0 VT 3-Dr In white, 47,000 miles, low insurance and road tax **REDUCED TO £3,295**

58 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Sport Rider 3-Dr In red, 56,000 miles with alloys, a/c etc**£3,295**

59 CITROEN C3 1.4 VTR 5-Dr In black, 54,000 miles, low insurance**£2,995**

56 FORD Fusion 1.6 Zetec Automatic In silver, 34,000 miles, alloys, a/c etc**£2,995**

08 MITSUBISHI Colt 'Black Hawk' 1.5 Turbo In black with black leather, 69,000 miles**£2,695**

06 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-Dr In met-blue, 64,000 miles, a/c, alloys**£2,295**



14 VAUXHALL Adam Glam 1.4
In very berry with cream roof, 25,000 miles, bluetooth, pan roof etc
£7,595



63 VAUXHALL Zafira Exclusiv 1.6
In royal blue, 26,000 miles, very reliable 7 seater family car
£6,995



62 VAUXHALL Insignia 2.0 Diesel SE Nav Automatic
In very berry, black trim, 57,000 miles
£8,995



62 VOLKSWAGEN Jetta 1.6 Diesel Auto Blue Motion SE
In met grey, 55,000 miles, 1 owner
£8,495



12 MINI Countryman Cooper 1.6 Diesel All 4
In white with black roof, chilli pack etc, 78,000 miles, 4x4
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Vale Schools defeat shield holders in epic encounter



All photos by ELAINE O'CONNOR.



SUNDAY saw the Vale's final Dewar Shield match before Christmas, the keenly anticipated derby game against the current holders of the trophy, Cardiff Schools.

The Vale took to the field resplendent in their new black kit sponsored by Apricot Online Learning.

Having beaten Cardiff in a pre-season tournament and winning their first two Dewar Shield games the Vale were quietly confident but totally respectful of the powerful Cardiff side.

After a tentative start by both sides the Vale outside half Jamie Howells opened the scoring with a beautiful try gliding through the Cardiff back line to score in the left hand corner.

Howells failed to convert his own try, the ball bouncing off the crossbar.

Continued pressure from the Vale saw the forwards drive for the line with Benji Williams going over for what the crowd thought was a second try, however the referee had correctly judged that the ball had been knocked on and the try was disallowed.

Captain Evan Lloyd extended the Vale lead.

Powerful running from the lock forward saw him scythe through the Cardiff defence and score under the posts. With Jamie Howells converting the try, the score was 12-0 to the Vale.

The Vale defence

soaked up any Cardiff attack; both sides however performed well at the ruck. Lewys Williams and Iestyn Galton again impressed in both the set piece and the loose. Williams securing and turning over ball at the breakdown, to allow the half backs Will O'Connor and Jamie Howells time to provide clean ball to the centre pairing of Dan Stancombe and Tom Ap John.

It was Stancombe who scored the final points of the half, an unconverted try to take the score to 17-0.

The Vale were playing a more expansive game in the second half, due to their forwards gaining the upper hand in the set pieces, Benji Williams stealing Cardiff's lineout ball on several occasions.

Despite being outweighed in the scrum the better technique of the Vale negated Cardiff's advantage, the front row of Jack Forsyth, Morgan Veness and Will Tuckwell forced Cardiff to replace and shuffle their opposite numbers.

As the half wore on the Vale drove back the Cardiff scrum a number of times, Evan Lloyd and Jarred Williams working in unison to drive the scrum forward.

Cardiff were continuing to defend resolutely when Iestyn Galton ploughed over the line but was deemed to have been held up.

The Vale were camped in the Cardiff half, attacking from all angles through full back Iain Cooper and wingers Matt Oddy and Griff Naylor.

Oddy grounded the ball over the Cardiff line but again the try was disallowed, the touch judge calling a foot in touch.

Cardiff continued battling and a momentary lapse from a disorganised kick and chase by the Vale allowed Cardiff's replacement wing to wrongfoot the defence and score an excellent individual try to make it 17-5.

Both sides made several replacements, Aled Rees coming on at scrum half, Tristan Thomas and Christian Brooke, replacing the props, Rhys Gentiles and Ed Thomas replacing the wingers and Ben Batten replacing Iain Cooper at full back.

Late on in the half the Vale scored their final try of the match; after some darting runs from Aled Rees, Iestyn Galton sped through the Cardiff defence to score. The conversion was missed to give a final score of 22-5.

Many thanks as always to the parents and coaches, to our sponsors Apricot Online Learning, to Canton RFC for hosting the game and to Elaine O'Connor for this week's photographs.

Follow our Dewar Shield progress on Twitter @ValeSchoolsU15. MV

GIRLS LINE UP FOR VALE FOOTBALL FESTIVAL



More than 120 girls took part in the football festival.

A RECORD number of schools attended the Vale Council's annual football festival, run in partnership with Barry Town United Ladies FC.

Over 120 girls between the ages of six and 15 took part in the event, held at St Cyres School.

No medals or prizes were given out, as the emphasis was placed on the enjoyment and development of the players.

The festival was run by the Vale council's sport development team and Barry Town United Ladies FC.

Rachel Shepherd, active young people co-ordinator for the Vale

Council, said: "It's fantastic to see so many girls enjoying playing football in the Vale. We've seen a steady increase in the number of girls who are accessing football in their schools and communities over the past few years."

"A huge amount of credit is due to Barry Town United Ladies FC for their commitment to growing the game in the area, along with the other clubs in the Vale who provide girls only and mixed opportunities in the sport."

For information on other football clubs in the Vale, contact Rachel Shepherd, who works to help young people become more active, on 01446 704795 or by emailing rlshepherd@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.



Christmas passing out for Ninja Kids!



Santa didn't disappoint the Ninjas with his skills!

JSTKD's youngest pupils, all of whom attend their 'Ninja Kids' classes, put on a first-rate display for their families and friends at their annual Christmas event held on December 3.

The children started

off with a warm-up and then treated their attentive audience to a fine display, showing off all the Tae Kwon Do skills they have been working on each week.

Of course, it wouldn't be a Christmas event without an appearance from a very special festive guest and

thankfully, Santa didn't let the Ninjas down. Much to the delight of the children, after a spectacular board breaking display he quickly moved on to his most important duty – handing out the selection boxes he had brought for all the Ninjas!

VW

Another win for Alan Johns

ALAN JOHNS, who has been in good form of late, chalked up another winner last Thursday when winning the three horse Dave Criddle Travel & Bristol Airport Chase for Aberthryn trainer Tim Vaughan.

Riding six-year-old Bells Of Ailsworth, a 9-4 chance, and who at six years old was the youngest horse in the race, he finished well ahead of the outsider of three, Hannibal The

Great.

EVAN'S CHELTENHAM WINNER

Still Believing, an eight-year-old chestnut mare ridden by Adam Wedge and trained by Evan Williams at Llancarfan, was a 10 lengths winner of the CF Roberts & Mechanical Services Mares' Handicap Chase at Cheltenham last Friday.

A 16-1 chance, Still Believing had been placed in her previous three races this season. **BRIAN LEE**

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for the last two weeks:

Monday, December 5 (Celtic Sims competition): 1st Tony Ratcliff & Julian Pottage 70.64%, 2nd Mike Best & Kevin Maddox 67.05%, 3rd Liam Sheridan & Glenda Roberts 61.93%.

Monday, December 12: 1st Irene Thomas & Graham Jones 67.82%, 2nd Marjorie Morris & Linda Pinnock 66.20%, 3rd Steve Burgoyne & John Evans 57.49%.

LE

The Barry & District League tables and result roundup

CRIB DIVISION 1:

Cadoxton Cons 7, West End 8; Liberals 8, Rhooose Social 7; West End Runaways 8, Moors Boys 7.

League table: Liberals 87, Rhooose Social 85, Wyndham Cons 75, Rhooose Social B 25, Moors Boys 72, Cadoxton Cons 70, West End Runaways 70, West End 66.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

Sea View B 5, Rhooose Social A 2; King William XII 1.5, Cambrian Flyers 5.5; Allsorts 5, Rhooosters 2; Slammers 5, Rhooose Social B 2; Rhooose Social C 5, Rugby Club 2; West End D 5, Barries Boys 2; Liberals A 1, West End C 6.

League table: West End D 50.5, King William XII 48.5, West End C 46, Allsorts 42, Rhooose Social B 41, Rhooosters 35, Barries Boys 34.5, Rhooose Social C 34, Sea View B 34, Rugby Club 33.5, Slammers 30.5, Rhooose Social A 29.5, Liberals C 27.5, Cambrian Flyers 26, Liberals A 19.5.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Rhooose Social C 1, Cadoxton Cons B 4; Services Social B 3, Penarth Cons A 2; Sully Sports A 1, Market Street C 4; Liberators 4, Wyndham Cons C 1; Savoy B 4, West End A 1; Market Street B 4, Harbour A 1; Wyndham Cons D 2, Cadoxton Cons A 3.

League table: Liberators 39, Savoy B 37, Market Street B 34, Wyndham Cons C 34, Harbour A 32, Cadoxton Cons A 30, Market Street C 29, West End A 22, Sully Sports A 22, Wyndham Cons D 21, West End B 20 (* = points deducted).

All league and cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk and on Facebook - search for 'Barry leagues'.

JW



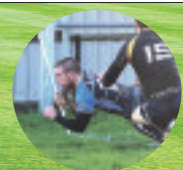
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Canoe club's bronze award for inclusivity



Maesteg Canoe Club.

MAESTEG Canoe Club is celebrating after being awarded the Insport Bronze accreditation from Disability Sport Wales, for its inclusivity measures.

With support from Bridgend County Borough Council's active young people department (AYPD), the not-for-profit community club – run by volunteers – has made various improvements to give equal opportunities for members with disabilities.

Two of the club's coaches went on UK disability inclusion training with Disability Sport Wales and attended UK safeguarding and protection training provided by the council's AYPD.

More than 50 members use the club for canoeing and kayaking in sea, surf, slalom and white water, with the activities being inclusive for members with disabilities.

Club chairperson Emily Daniels said: "We are very proud to have received this award and hope to continue building strong links and relationships within the community and surrounding area."

"We are now aiming for the Insport Silver level of inclusivity and to continue to provide opportunities for all."

Bridgend County

Borough Council's cabinet member for 'wellbeing and future generations', Coun Hailey Townsend, said: "It's great to see local clubs providing equal opportunities, no matter what abilities people have."

"All local organisations should strive to have inclusivity built into the activities they offer."

"We congratulate Maesteg Canoe Club for setting an example and being recognised for their efforts in doing this."

Maesteg Canoe Club has several experienced coaches, is a member of Canoe Wales, the national governing body for the sport, and meets every Wednesday evening at Maesteg Swimming Pool between 7pm and 9pm.

For more information visit www.maestegcanoecub.org or call 07528966436.

Sculls and skills taster at Pencoed Comprehensive



PENCOED Comprehensive welcomed Wales Rowing (WR) into school to provide 'taster sessions' for a number of year groups.

More than 80 pupils received

coaching from Liz Lewis of WR.

It was great to see our very own pupil Shereen Miers in to support Liz. Shereen has been 'head hunted' by WR to be 'fast tracked' into its rowing programme.

Halo Leisure offers funding

HALO Leisure and BCBC are inviting sportsmen, women and children in the borough to apply for funding and free training opportunities through the Halo Sport Foundation.

"As a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity whose primary aim is to provide the local community with active leisure facilities, we are

delighted to be able to offer support through the Sport Foundation for another year," said Simon Gwynne, Partnership Manager. "We see it as an opportunity to put something back into the community that has supported us so well."

From December 20, rising sporting stars can apply for a share of the support. Application forms and further information can be found at www.halosportfoundation.org.uk.

For the latest sports stories and breaking news, visit glamorgan-gem.co.uk

All the results from Bridgend Bridge Club

M A N Y congratulations to Emer Disley and Tony Haworth for their success in this year's mixed pairs competition.

They came first just 0.5 per cent above the runners-up Tony Disley and Jenny Vaughan, followed in third place by David and Norma Newman. Well done to all in a hard fought competition.

The results for recent events at Bridgend Bridge Club are:

Wednesday, December 7, Club: First, Julian Pottage and Jonathan

Ratcliffe; Second, Liam Emer Disley and Tony Sheridan and John Beard. Third, Tony Disley and John Evans. The winners on handicap were Julian Pottage and Jonathan Ratcliffe.

Thursday, December 8: First: Glyn Williams and Maggie Ashpole; Second: Mike Williams and John Henson; Third: Eileen Mahoney and Jeff Barnett. The winners on handicap were Glyn Williams and Maggie Ashpole.

Friday, December 9, round two mixed pairs: First: Liam Sheridan and Glenda Roberts; Second: Tony Disley and Jenny Vaughan; third,

Regular club nights take place on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to begin at 7pm, so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early. On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle bridge session. Master points are awarded, but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge.

TG

Porthcawl Bridge Club round-up

PORTHCAWL Bridge Club's latest results are as follows:

Saturday, November 19: first, Dil Evans and Roger Draper; second, Eleanor Jones and Winnie Phillips.

Thursday, November 24: first, Tony Haworth and Keith Davison; second, Trish Saunders and Sue Anthony.

Saturday, November 26: first, Dil Evans and Roger Draper; second, Roger Plant and Betty Longley.

Thursday, December 1: first, Peter and Sandie Jenkins; second, Tony

Haworth and Keith Davison.

Saturday, December 3: first, Beth Davies and Winnie Phillips; second, Pat Haworth and Trish Saunders.

Thursday, December 8: first, Eleanor Jones and Audrey Tinkler; second, Roger Plant and Terry Dolan.

The club meets twice a week – Saturday and Thursday – at the Awel-y-Mor centre, 6.45pm – 9.45pm. Visitors welcome at any time. To contact the club, call secretary Trish on 01656 785794.

A hard-fought draw for the youth rugby team

LAST week saw the Llantwit Major RFC youth team just managing to scrape a 19-19 draw and remain unbeaten in the league as they visited Taffs Well for a re-arranged fixture.

The first half saw Llantwit dominate the start with two strikes against the head in the scrum against a much bigger Taffs Well pack.

This acted as a springboard for several attacks at the home sides defence with impressive hard running second row Joe Hanson eventually storming over for a well deserved try, converted by outside-half Iestyn Jones.

The second Llantwit try coming from a great move from just inside their own half as a quick

ball reached outside centre Evan Holloway, who evaded the covering defence to go under the sticks, again converted by the boot of Jones.

The first half ended at 7-14 as Taffs Well grabbed a late converted try of their own.

The second half saw a turn in fortune as Taffs Well dominated and Llantwit, instead of relying on their first half game plan of quick and loose rugby, got drawn into a forward battle against the big home side.

This led to Taffs Well scoring a further two tries as they ground down the Llantwit pack and then unleashed their quick back line. A good defensive effort by the young Llantwionians and in particular the hard working back row of Cory Campbell, Cai Jones and Braiden

Barrett managing to keep the home side from any further score. Then as the game looked like ending with a 19-14 home win, Llantwit suddenly returned to their original game plan and making ground up the field with some strong forward runs they again unleashed centre Holloway to make a huge break before being brought down on the 22.

Some good rucking and nice hands across the field saw second row and under-16 player Connor Tredgold going over in the corner. Sadly this kick was to be just out of reach for Jones as it sailed wide and the final whistle was blown.

On reflection to any neutral watcher, a draw was probably a suitable outcome to what was an entertaining game. **AH**



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